三国志 19

冥国の暗雲

横山光輝

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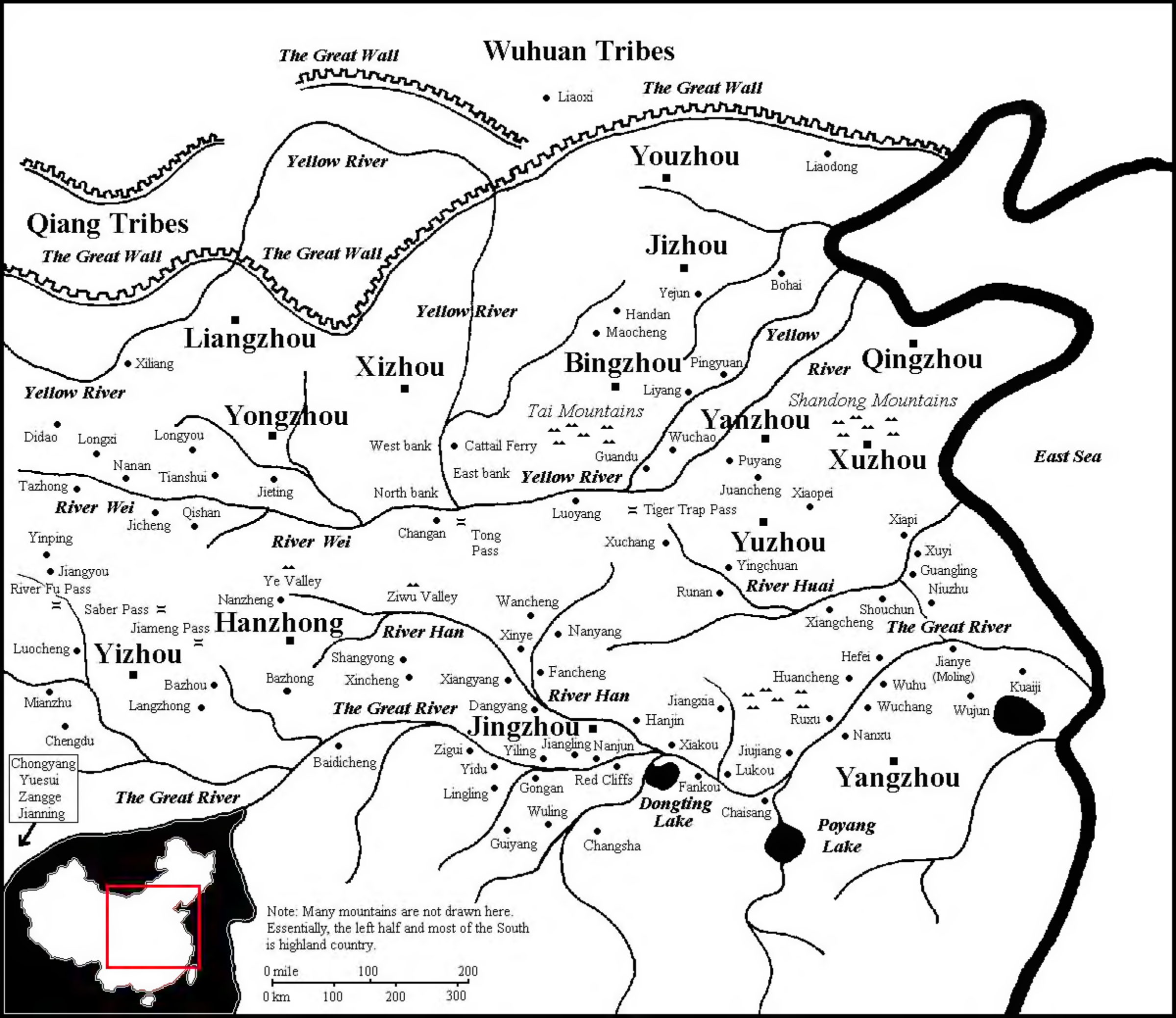
SANGOKUSHI

19

THE DARK CLOUDS OF WU

YOKOYAMA MITSUTERU

LIU BEI XUANDE


Wuhuan Tribes
The Great Wall
The Great Wall
Liaoxi
Youzhou
Liaodong
Yellow River
Qiang Tribes
The Great Wall
The Great Wall
Jizhou
Bohai
Yejun
Handan
Maocheng
Yellow River
Liangzhou
Xizhou
Bingzhou
Pingyuan
Yellow River
Qingzhou
Xiliang
Yellow River
Liyang
Shandong Mountains
Tai Mountains
Yongzhou
Yanzhou
Didao
Longxi
Longyou
West bank
Cattail Ferry
Wuchao
Guandu
Xuzhou
East Sea
Nanan
East bank
Yellow River
Puyang
Tianshui
Tazhong
Jieting
North bank
Juancheng
Xiaopei
River Wei
Qishan
Luoyang
Tiger Trap Pass
Jicheng
Changan
Tong Pass
Xiapi
Yuzhou
Yinping
River Wei
Xuchang
Xuyi
Jiangyou
Ye Valley
Yingchuan
Guangling
River Fu Pass
Ziwu Valley
Runan
River Huai
Niuzhu
Saber Pass
Nanzheng
Wancheng
Shouchun
Jiameng Pass
Hanzhong
River Han
Xinye
Nanyang
Xiangcheng
The Great River
Luocheng
Yizhou
Shangyong
Hefei
Jianye (Moling)
Fancheng
Huancheng
Bazhou
Bazhong
Xincheng
Xiangyang
Wuhu
Kuaiji
River Han
Jiangxia
Mianzhu
Langzhong
The Great River
Dangyang
Wuchang
Wujun
Ruxu
Hanjin
Jingzhou
Chengdu
Nanxu
Zigui
Yiling
Jiangling
Nanjun
Xiakou
Jiujiang
Baidicheng
Yidu
Lukou
Yangzhou
Chongyang
Yuesui
Zangge
Jianning
Red Cliffs
Fankou
Gongan
Lingling
Dongting Lake
Chaisang
Wuling
Poyang Lake
Guiyang
Changsha
The Great River
Note: Many mountains are not drawn here.
Essentially, the left half and most of the South
is highland country.
0 mile 100 200
0 km 100 200 300

SANGOKUSHI'S CAST OF CHARACTERS

PART 1: CHARACTERS TO KEEP IN MIND

CAO CAO MENGDE:
THE AMBITIOUS AND MACHIABELLIAN HERO OF SANGOKUSHI. AFTER RESCUING EMPEROR XIAN FROM LI JUE AND GUO SI, HE HAS TAKEN CONTROL OF THE IMPERIAL COURT AND BECOME CHANCELLOR OF HAN. HE IS CURRENTLY AT WAR WITH YUAN SHAO.

CHEN DENG:
THE SON OF CHEN GUI AND FORMERLY TAO QIAN OF XUZHOU'S SUBORDINATE. HE AND HIS FATHER SUCCESSFULLY PLOTTED LU BU'S DOWNFALL.

CHEN GUI:
FATHER OF CHEN DENG WHO SUCCESSFULLY PLOTTED LU BU'S DOWNFALL. DESPITE SECRETLY WORKING TOGETHER WITH LIU BEI AGAINST CAO CAO, CAO CAO SPARES HIS LIFE AND ALLOWS HIM TO CONTINUE LIVING IN XUZHOU.

CHENG GONG:
A CITY GUARD CAPTAIN WHO ARRESTED CAO CAO, ONLY TO FREE AND ESCAPE WITH HIM AFTER SYMPATHIZING WITH HIS STORY. HOWEVER, HE LATER DEFECTS TO LU BU AND SERVES AS HIS ADVISOR. IN VOLUME 14, HE IS EXECUTED ALONG WITH LU BU.

EMPRESS HE:
ORIGINALY A PEASANT, HER BEAUTY WAS NOTICED BY THE TEN ATTENDANTS WHO THEN PRESENTED HER TO EMPEROR LING. SHE SOON BECAME EMPEROR LING'S FAVOURITE CONSORT AND GAVE BIRTH TO PRINCE LIU BIAN. HOWEVER, SHE AND HER SON WERE REMOVED FROM POWER AND KILLED BY LI RU WHEN DONG ZHUO CAME TO POWER.

DIAN WEI:
CAO CAO'S PERSONAL BODYGUARD, RENOWNED FOR HIS STRENGTH. HE IS ALSO KNOWN BY THE NICKNAME, "E LAI," IN REFERENCE TO THE MIGHT GENERAL OF THE SAME NAME WHO SERVED UNDER KING ZHOU OF SHANG. IN VOLUME 12, HE WAS KILLED DURING ZHANG XIU'S PLOT TO KILL CAO CAO.

DIAO CHAN:
A SLAVE GIRL OF WANG YUN, WHO RAISED HER AS HIS OWN DAUGHTER. SHE AND WANG YUN PLOTTED TO DISTANCE LU BU FROM DONG ZHUO BY HAVING HER SEDUCE BOTH MEN. IN VOLUME 8, SHE COMMITTED SUICIDE AFTER ACCOMPLISHING HER GOAL.

DONG CHENG:
ELDER STATESMAN OF HAN WHO IS EMPEROR XIAN'S CONFIDANT. EMPEROR XIAN SECRETELY ASKS HIM TO ELIMINATE CAO CAO, WHO NOW RULES THE IMPERIAL COURT AS CHANCELLOR. IN VOLUME 17, HE IS EXECUTED AFTER HIS ASSASSINATION PLOT IS FOUND OUT BY CAO CAO.

DONG ZHUO:
GOVERNOR OF LIANGZHOU WHO LATER SEIZED CONTROL OF LUOYANG AND SEATED HIMSELF AS THE CHANCELLOR OF HAN, BECOMING AN INFAMOUS TYRANT. IN VOLUME 8, HE IS BETRAYED AND KILLED BY HIS RIGHT-HAND MAN, LU BU.

GONGSUN ZAN:
GOVERNOR OF BEIPING AND FRIEND TO LIU BEI. HE WAGES WAR AGAINST YUAN SHAO AFTER THE LATTER TRICKS HIM AND KILLS HIS YOUNG BROTHER. IN VOLUME 15, YUAN SHAO'S ARMY CONQUERS BEIPING, CAUSING GONGSUN ZAN TO COMMIT SUICIDE.

GUAN YU YUNCHANG:
SWORN YOUNGER BROTHER TO LIU BEI AND SWORN OLDER BROTHER TO ZHANG FEI. HE IS AS FIERCE AS GUAN YU BUT IS MORE RESTRAINED AND CALM IN HIS MANNERISMS.

GUO JIA:
THE TALENTED STRATEGIST AND ADVISOR TO CAO CAO.

JIA XU:
THE SHREWD STRATEGIST AND ADVISOR TO ZHANG XIU. HE AND ZHANG XIU PLOTS A FAILED ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON CAO CAO, BUT SUCCEEDS IN KILLING DIAN WEI. IN VOLUME 16, HE AND ZHANG XIU DEFECT TO CAO CAO'S SIDE.

LI RU:
CUNNING ADVISOR TO DONG ZHUO. WITH HIS ADVICE, DONG ZHUO FIRMLY SECURES HIS SEAT AS THE CHANCELLOR OF HAN. IN VOLUME 8, HE IS KILLED ALONG WITH DONG ZHUO WHEN LU BU REBELS.

LIU BEI XUANDE:
THE CENTRAL CHARACTER OF SANGOKUSHI. A KIND AND VIRTUOUS MAN, SAID TO BE THE DESCENDANT OF EMPEROR JING OF HAN. HE HAS SWORN AN OATH OF BROTHERHOOD WITH GUAN YU AND ZHANG FEI. AFTER LOSING XUZHOU TO CAO CAO, HE IS CURRENTLY WORKING WITH YUAN SHAO TO BRING DOWN CAO CAO.

LIU BIAO:
THE GOVERNOR OF JINGZHOU WHO, ALONG WITH YUAN SHAO, TRIED TO RECOVER THE IMPERIAL SEAL THAT SUN JIAN STOLE.

LIU XIE (EMPEROR XIAN OF HAN):
FORMERLY KNOWN AS PRINCE OF CHENLIU, HE IS THE CURRENT EMPEROR OF HAN. HE BECAME THE EMPEROR WHEN DONG ZHUO FORCIBLY DETHRONED HIS HALF-BROTHER LIU BIAN.

LU BU:
HE IS SAID TO BE THE STRONGEST WARRIOR IN THE LAND WHO RIDES ON THE FASTEST HORSE IN THE LAND, THE RED HARE. IN VOLUME 14, HE WAS BETRAYED BY HIS SUBORDINATES (HOU CHENG, WEI XU, SONG XIAN), WHO HANDED HIM OVER TO CAO CAO. HE BEGS CAO CAO FOR MERCY BUT IS EXECUTED DUE TO LIU BEI'S DISAGREEMENT.

MA TENG:
GOVERNOR OF XILIAN AND FATHER OF MA CHAO. UNLIKE THE ACTUAL HISTORICAL FIGURE, HE IS DEPICTED AS A HAN LOYALIST WHO SIGNS DONG CHENG'S BLOOD SEAL PLEDGE.

SUN CE:
ELDEST SON OF SUN JIAN. AFTER LENDING YUAN SHU THE IMPERIAL SEAL IN EXCHANGE FOR AN ARMY, HE SUCCESSFULLY CONQUERS THE SOUTHEASTERN REGIONS OF HAN (JIANGNAN AND JIANGDONG) ALSO KNOWN AS WU.

SUN JIAN:
BORN IN WU COMMANDERY, HE WAS THE GOVERNOR OF CHANGSHA. IN VOLUME 5, HE PARTICIPATES IN THE ALLIANCE TO BRING DOWN DONG ZHUO. DURING THIS PERIOD, HE FINDS THE IMPERIAL SEAL, WHICH CAUSES YUAN SHAO AND LIU BIAO TO TURN ON HIM. IN VOLUME 7, HE TRIES TO EXACT HIS REVENGE ON LIU BIAO, ONLY TO BE KILLED IN BATTLED.

SUN QUAN:
YOUNGER BROTHER OF SUN CE.

TAISHI CI:
SUN CE'S TRUSTED GENERAL WHO DEFECTED TO SERVE SUN CE AFTER BEING CAPTURED IN VOLUME 11.

TAO QIAN:
THE KIND GOVERNOR OF XUZHOU WHO ACCIDENTALLY INVOKES CAO CAO'S WRATH WHEN HIS DISLOYAL SUBORDINATE ZHANG KAI KILLS CAO CAO'S FATHER, CAO SONG.

THE TEN ATTENDANTS:
A CORRUPT GROUP OF 10 EUNUCHS WHO WERE THE HIGHEST RANKING MINISTERS OF THE IMPERIAL COURT. THEY SUCCEEDED IN ASSASSINATING GENERAL HE JIN BUT WERE LATER KILLED BY HE JIN'S ARMY LED BY YUAN SHAO.

WANG YUN:
AN OLD MAN WHO HOLDS THE POST OF MINISTER OF THE MASSES, ONE OF THE 3 HIGHEST RANKING POSTS IN HAN IMPERIAL COURT. HE SUCCESSFULLY PLOTS DONG ZHUO'S DOWNFALL USING DIAO CHANG IN VOLUME 8. HOWEVER, HE IS LATER KILLED BY REMNANTS OF DONG ZHUO'S ARMY (UNSHOWN IN MANGA).

WEN CHOU:
HE AND YANG LIANG ARE YUAN SHAO'S TWO STRONGEST GENERALS. IN VOLUME 18, HE IS AMBUSHED BY CAO CAO'S ARMY AND KILLED BY GUAN YU.

XIAHOU DUN:
TRUSTED GENERAL OF CAO CAO. HE LOST HIS LEFT EYE DURING A BATTLE AGAINST LU BU'S ARMY IN VOLUME 13.

XU CHU:
TRUSTED GENERAL OF CAO CAO. ORIGINALY A PEASANT, HE WAS RECRUITED BY CAO CAO WHO WAS IMPRESSED AFTER SEEING XU CHU'S DUEL WITH DIAN WEI.

XUN YU:
ONE OF CAO CAO'S MOST TALENTED ADVISORS.

YAN LIANG:
HE AND WEN CHOU ARE YUAN SHAO'S TWO STRONGEST GENERALS. IN VOLUME 17, HE WAS KILLED BY GUAN YU WHILE FIGHTING CAO CAO'S ARMY AT BAIMA.

YUAN SHAO:
ORIGINALLY AN ADVISOR TO HE JIN, HE LEFT THE CAPITAL TO BECOME THE GOVERNOR OF BOHAI WHEN DONG ZHUO CAME TO RULE OVER LUOYANG. HE IS CURRENTLY THE GOVERNOR OF JIZHOU AND IS TRYING TO EXPAND HIS SPHERE OF INFLUENCE BY WARRING AGAINST CAO CAO.

YUAN SHU:
YOUNGER BROTHER OF YUAN SHAO AND THE GOVERNOR OF NANYANG. AFTER RECEIVING THE IMPERIAL SEAL FROM SUN CE, HE DECLARES HIMSELF AS THE EMPEROR OF ZHONG DYNASTY. IN VOLUME 15, HE DIES OF THIRST AFTER BEING ON THE RUN FROM LIU BEI AND CAO CAO'S ARMIES.

ZHANG FEI YIDE:
A FIRECE, SHORT-TEMPERED WARRIOR WHO IS THE SWORN YOUNGER BROTHER OF LIU BEI AND GUAN YU.

ZHANG LIAO:
ONE OF CAO CAO'S TOP GENERALS. HE WAS FORMERLY LU BU'S SUBORDINATE BUT DEFECTED TO CAO CAO AFTER THE FORMER'S EXECUTION.

ZHANG XIU:
LORD OF WANCHENG WHO ATTEMPTED TO KILL CAO CAO DURING THE BATTLE OF WANCHENG IN VOLUME 12. AFTER YEARS OF CONFLICT AGAINST CAO CAO, HE FINALLY DECIDES TO DEFECT TO CAO CAO IN VOLUME 16.

ZHAO YUN ZILONG:
A FORMER RETAINER TO YUAN SHAO WHO LATER DEFECTED TO SERVE GONGSUN ZAN. HE WISHES TO BE LIU BEI'S RETAINER, HOWEVER.

ZHOU CANG:
FORMERLY A YELLOW TURBAN, HE MEETS GUAN YU IN VOLUME 18 AND BECOMES HIS SUBORDINATE.

SANGOKUSHI'S CAST OF CHARACTERS
PART 2: OTHER MINOR CHARACTERS

CAO HONG:
GENERAL AND COUSIN TO CAO CAO. IN VOLUME 6, HE SAVES CAO CAO FROM CERTAIN DEATH.

CAO SONG:
CAO CAO'S FATHER AND A FORMER GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL. IN VOLUME 8, HE IS KILLED BY TAO QIAN'S ESCORT AND FORMER YELLOW TURBAN, ZHANG KAI.

DING YUAN:
GOVERNOR OF BINGZHOU AND LU BU'S FOSTER-FATHER. HE OBJECTED TO DONG ZHUO'S SCHEME TO PLACE PRINCE CHENLIU AS THE EMPEROR OF HAN, EARNING DONG ZHUO'S WRATH. IN VOLUME 4, HE IS BETRAYED AND KILLED BY HIS FOSTER-SON, LU BU, WHO THEN DEFECTS TO SERVE DONG ZHUO.

EMPRESS DOWAGER DONG:
MOTHER TO THE FORMER EMPEROR LING AND GRANDMOTHER TO EMPEROR XIAN. IN VOLUME 3, EMPRESS HE ORDERS FOR HER DEATH TO SECURE HER SON LIU BIAN'S THRONE AS THE NEXT EMPEROR OF HAN.

GAO SHUN:
ONE OF LU BU'S TRUSTED GENERALS. HE IS EXECUTED ALONG WITH HIS LORD IN VOLUME 14.

GUO SI:
A GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED DONG ZHUO. AFTER DONG ZHUO'S DEATH, HE AND LI JUE TOOK CONTROL OF LUOYANG AND DID AS THEY PLEASED UNTIL THE EMPEROR RUNS TO CAO CAO FOR PROTECTION.

HE JIN:
OLDER BROTHER OF EMPRESS HE. ORIGINALLY A SIMPLE BUTCHER, HE BECAME A GENERAL WHEN HIS YOUNGER SISTER BECAME EMPEROR LING'S CONSORT. IN VOLUME 3, HE ATTEMPTS TO ELIMINATE THE TEN ATTENDANTS, ONLY TO BE DISSUADED FROM DOING SO BY HIS YOUNGER SISTER. HE IS LATER KILLED BY THE TEN ATTENDANTS.

HOU CHENG:
ONE OF LU BU'S GENERALS. IN VOLUME 14, HE, ALONG WITH GENERALS WEI XU AND SONG XIAN, BETRAYS LU BU AND DEFECTS TO CAO CAO'S SIDE.

HUA XIONG:
FAMED GENERAL SERVING UNDER DONG ZHUO. IN VOLUME 5, HE DEFEATS SUN JIAN'S ARMY BUT IS LATER KILLED BY GUAN YU.

JI PING:
IMPERIAL PHYSICIAN OF HAN WHO, WITH DONG CHENG, PLOTS TO POISON CAO CAO. IN VOLUME 17, CAO CAO DISCOVERS THEIR PLOT AND EXECUTES HIM.

JIANG QIN:
FORMERLY A BANDIT ALONG WITH ZHOU TAI, BUT BECAME SUN CE'S SUBORDINATE OUT OF ADMIRATION FOR SUN CE'S FATHER, SUN JIAN.

LADY FUYOU:
FICTIONAL CHARACTER CREATED BY MITSUTERU YOKOYAMA AND LIU BEI'S FIRST LOVE. ZHANG FEI FORMERLY SERVED HER FAMILY, WHO WERE MASSCRED BY THE YELLOW TURBAN REBELS.

LADY MI:
LIU BEI'S FIRST WIFE.

LI JUE:
A GENERAL WHO FORMERLY SERVED DONG ZHUO. AFTER DONG ZHUO'S DEATH, HE AND GUO SI TOOK CONTROL OF LUOYANG AND DID AS THEY PLEASED UNTIL THE EMPEROR RUNS TO CAO CAO FOR PROTECTION.

LIU BIAN:
THE SON OF EMPRESS HE AND BRIEFLY THE EMPEROR OF HAN AFTER THE DEATH OF HIS FATHER, EMPEROR LING. IN VOLUME 4, HE WAS DEPOSED BY DONG ZHUO AND LATER KILLED ALONG WITH HIS MOTHER BY LI RU.

LU ZHI:
LIU BEI'S FORMER TEACHER AND THE PALACE COMMANDER WHO WAS PLACED IN CHARGE OF LEADING THE HAN ARMY AGAINST THE YELLOW TURBANS. HE WAS LATER DEMOTED FOR FAILING TO BRIBE ONE OF THE IMPERIAL MESSENGERS.

ZHANG BAO:
ZHANG JIAO'S YOUNGER BROTHER AND THE YELLOW TURBAN'S GENERAL OF THE LAND. HE WAS KILLED BY LIU BEI IN VOLUME 2.

ZHANG JIAO:
LEADER OF THE YELLOW TURBAN REBELLION.
HE PASSED AWAY DUE TO ILLNESS IN VOLUME 3.

ZHANG ZHAO/ZHANG HONG:
THE TWO GENIUSES OF JIANGDONG, ALSO KNOWN AS THE "TWO ZHANGS." AFTER SUN CE'S ADMANT INSISTENCE, THEY DECIDE TO SERVE HIM AND HELP HIS CAMPAIGN TO CONQUER JIANGNAN AND JIANGDONG.

ZHOU TAI:
FORMERLY A BANDIT ALONG WITH JIANG QIN BUT BECAME SUN CE'S SUBORDINATE OUT OF ADMIRATION FOR HIS FATHER, SUN JIAN.

SANGOKUSHI
(ROMANCE OF THE
THREE KINGDOMS)

三国志

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GUCHENG 7

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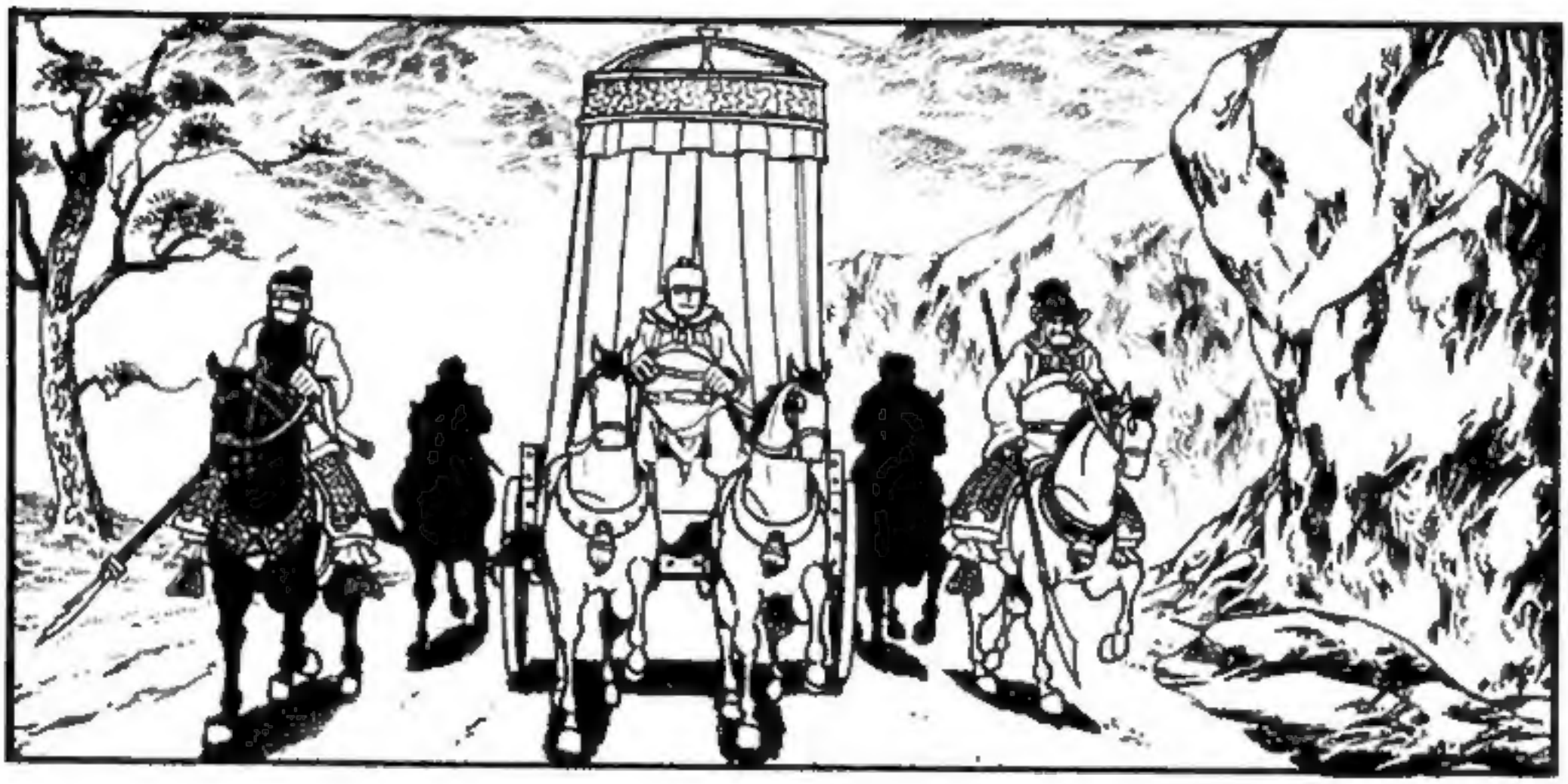
GUCHENG



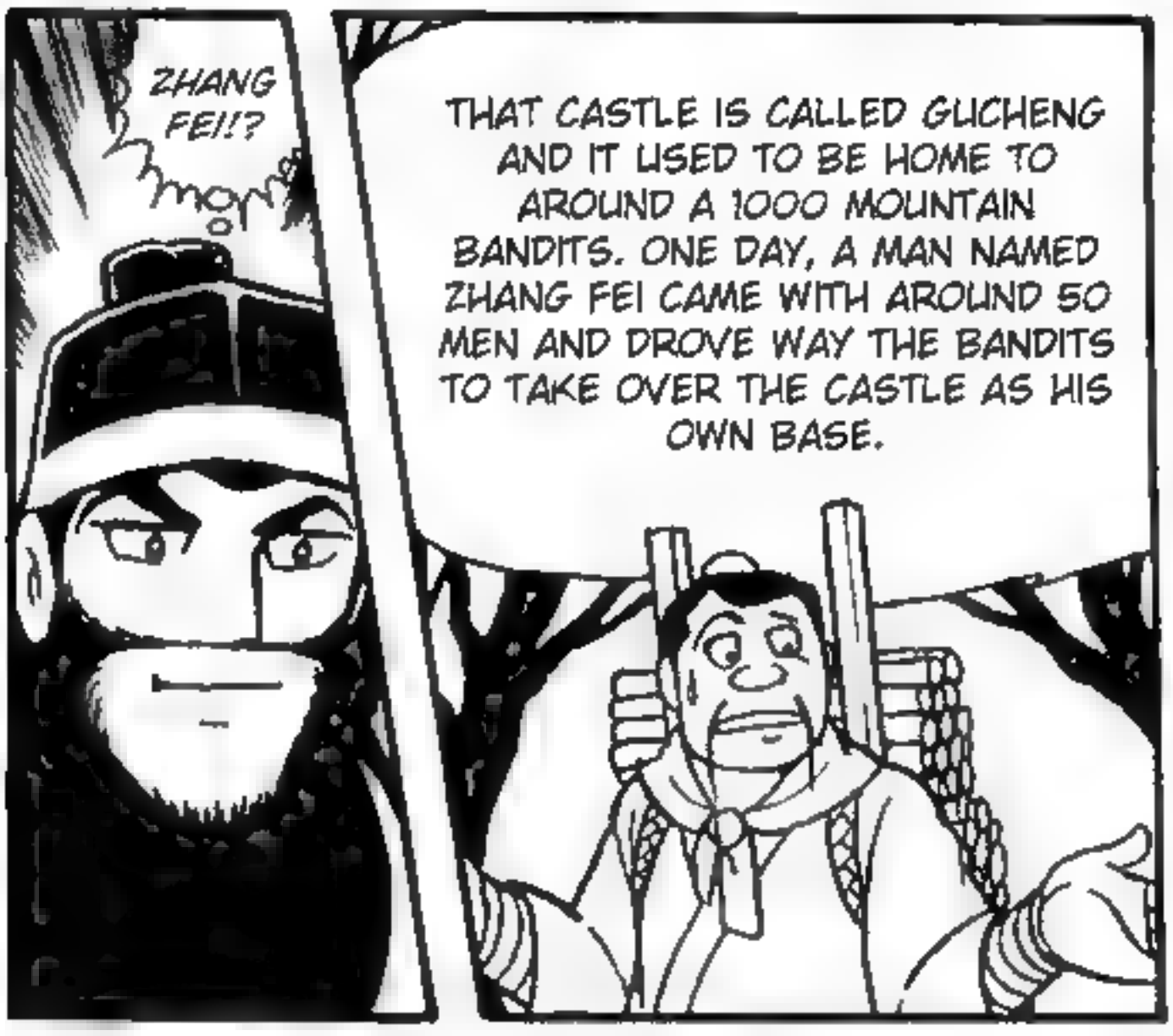
EXCUSE ME SIR, BUT MIGHT YOU BE TRAVELLING THROUGH THIS DIRECTION?

IT'D BE BEST NOT TO HEAD THAT WAY.

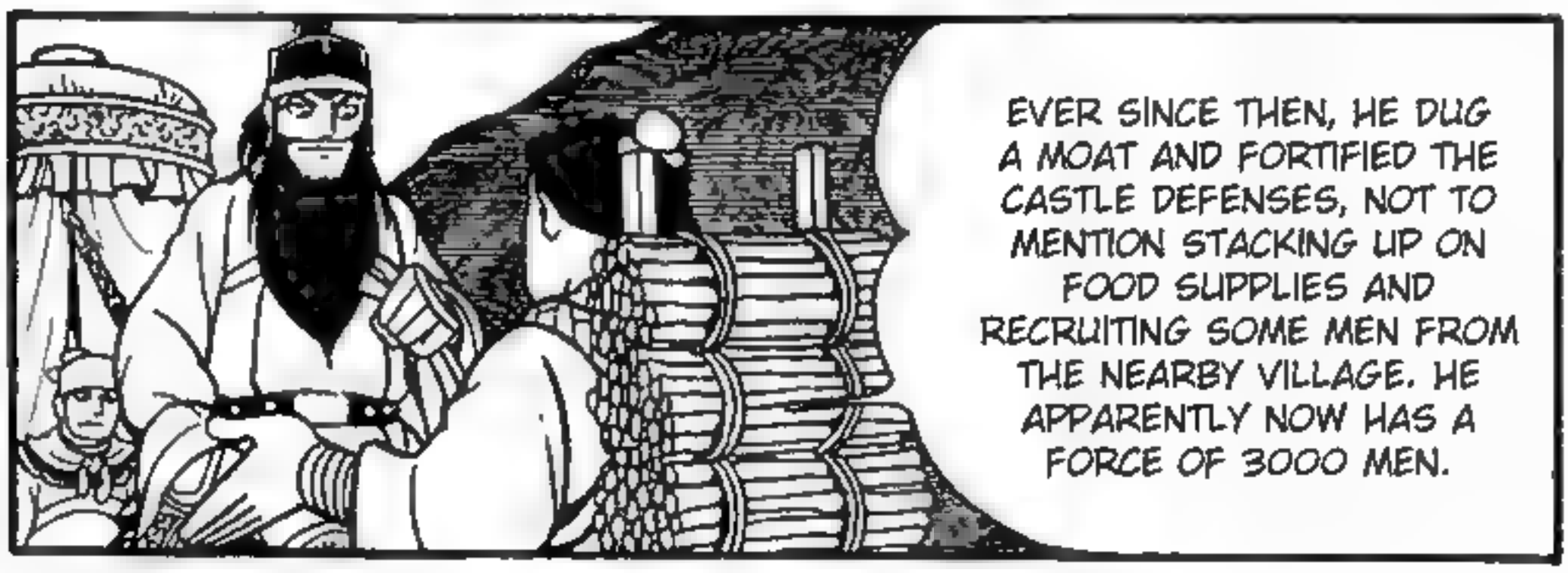
YES, BUT WHY DO YOU ASK?

SEE THE CASTLE OVER THERE?

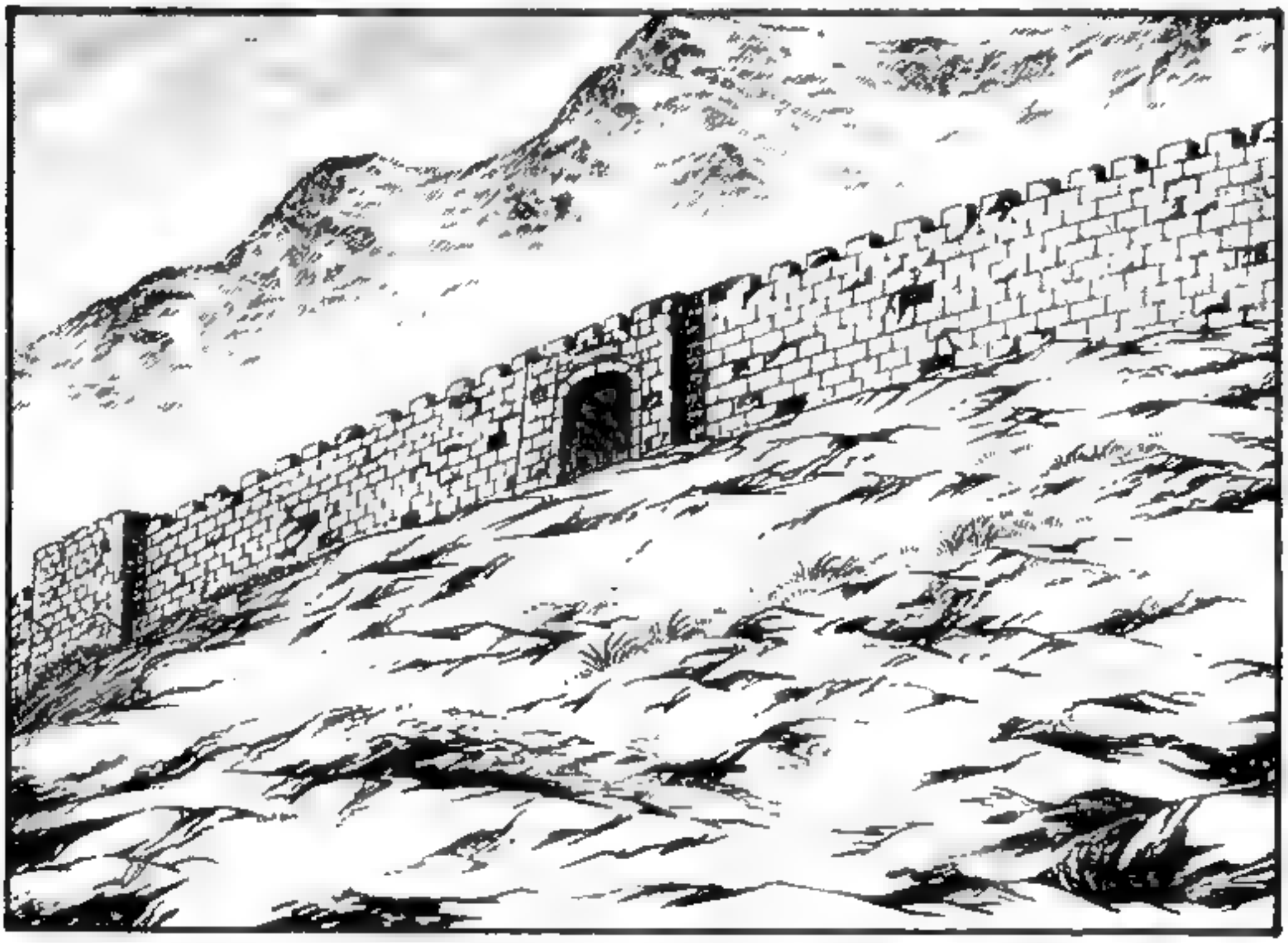
WHY NOT?


ZHANG FEI!?
THAT CASTLE IS CALLED GUCHENG AND IT USED TO BE HOME TO AROUND A 1000 MOUNTAIN BANDITS. ONE DAY, A MAN NAMED ZHANG FEI CAME WITH AROUND 50 MEN AND DROVE WAY THE BANDITS TO TAKE OVER THE CASTLE AS HIS OWN BASE.

WHAT ABOUT THAT CASTLE?


EVER SINCE THEN, HE DUG A MOAT AND FORTIFIED THE CASTLE DEFENSES, NOT TO MENTION STACKING UP ON FOOD SUPPLIES AND RECRUITING SOME MEN FROM THE NEARBY VILLAGE. HE APPARENTLY NOW HAS A FORCE OF 3000 MEN.

THAT'S WHY IT'D BE BEST FOR SIR TO GO AROUND USING THE SOUTHERN PATH INSTEAD.
EVEN THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS DARE NOT TO APPROACH THERE.



NOT AT ALL. TAKE CARE.

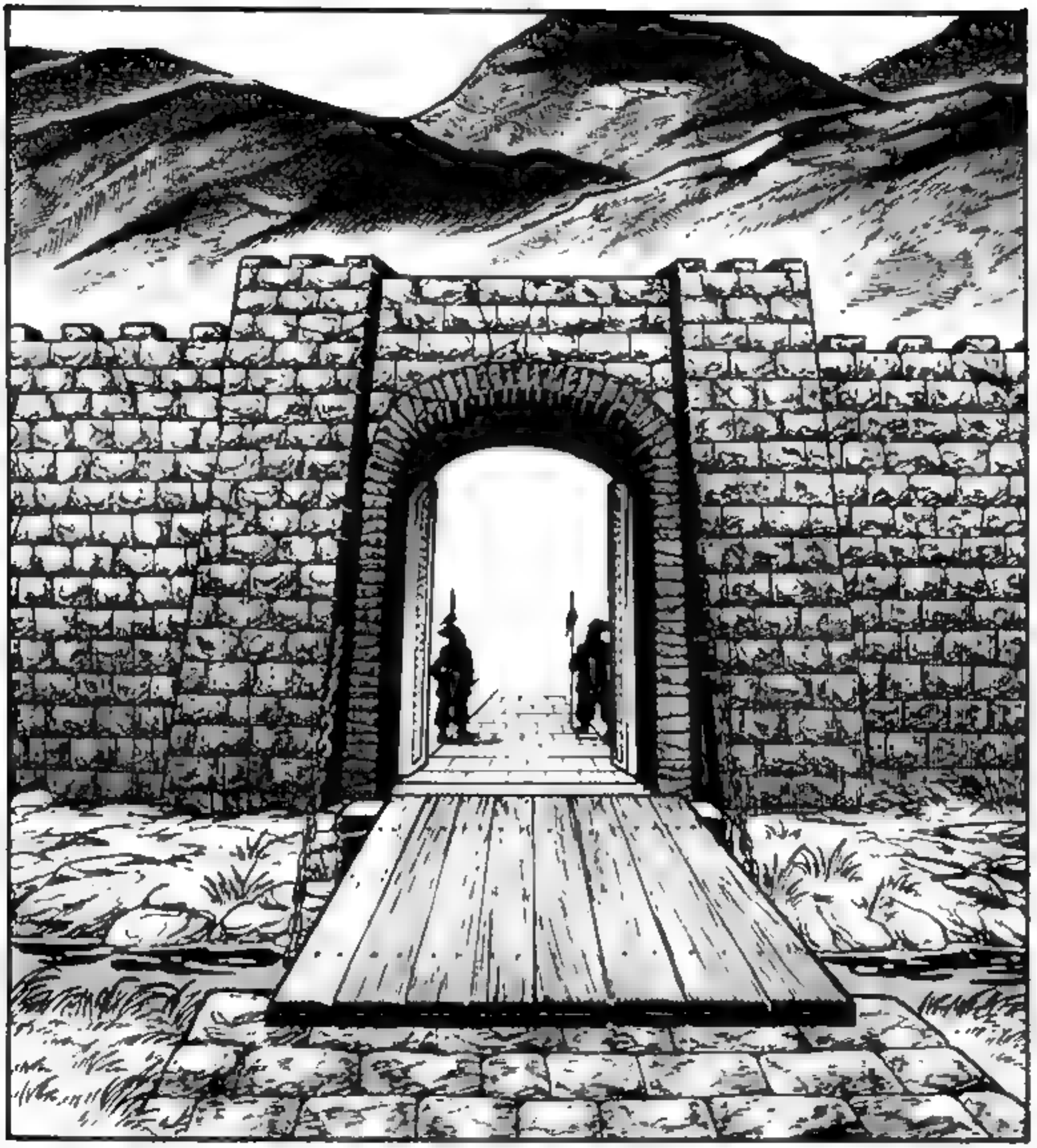
THANK YOU FOR TELLING ME.

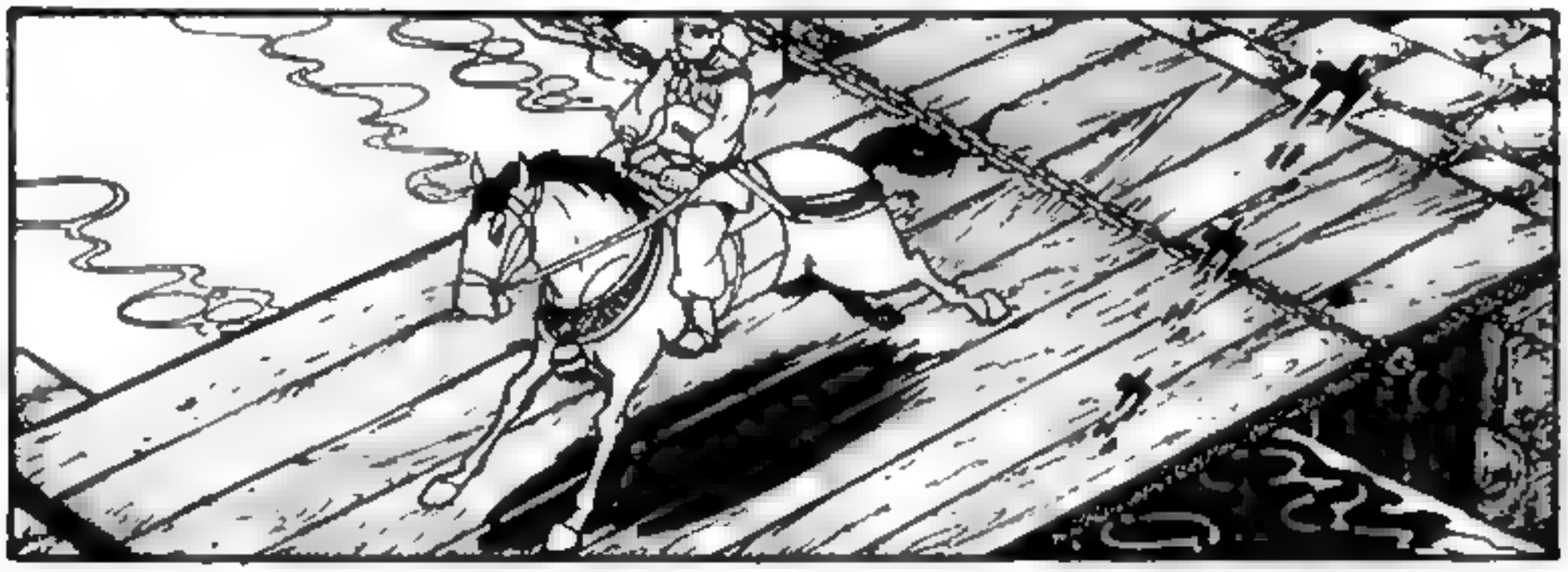
YES, SIR.
DID YOU HEAR WHAT HE SAID?

SO THIS IS WHERE YOU'VE BEEN.

THAT'S MY YOUNGER BROTHER WITHOUT A DOUBT.

YES, SIR.
I WANT YOU TO GO AHEAD TO GUCHENG AND TELL ZHANG FEI TO COME OUT AND RECEIVE MILADY.





IS YOUR MASTER, ZHANG FEI HERE? I AM GUAN YU'S MESSENGER.

HALT! WHO GOES THERE!?

WAIT RIGHT HERE.

WHAT?

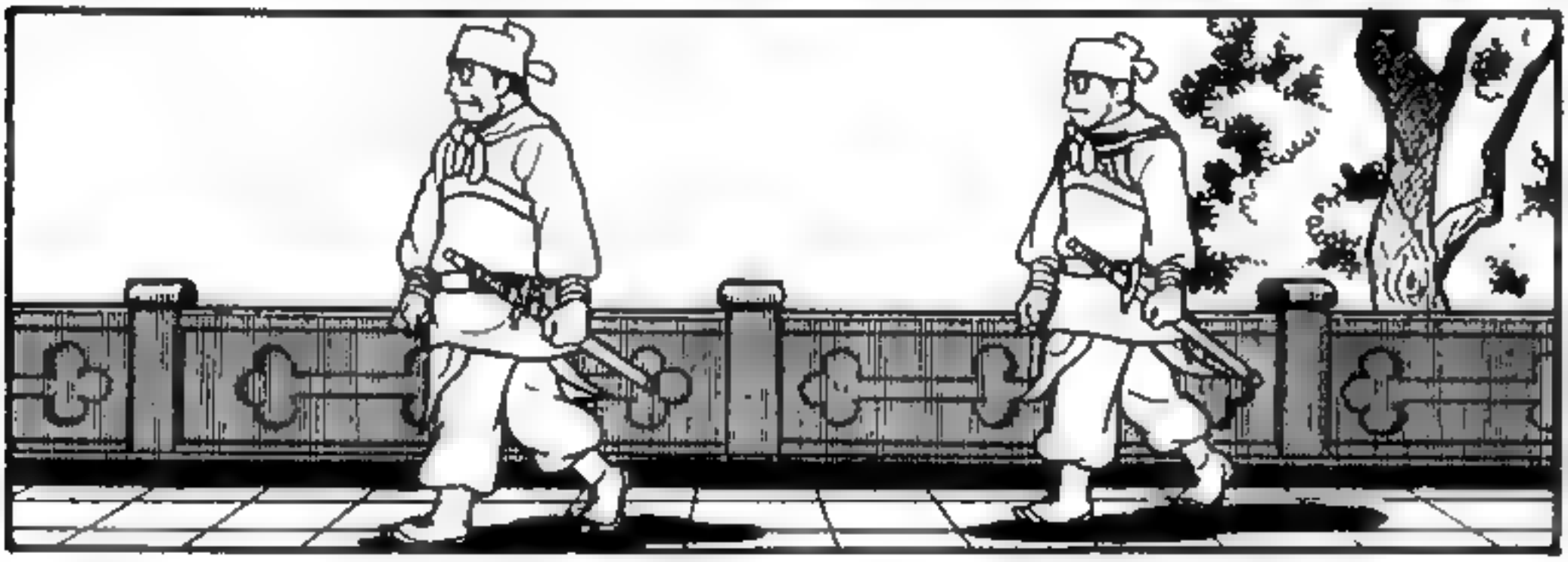
SIR, A MESSENGER FROM GUAN YU HAS COME RIGHT NOW.

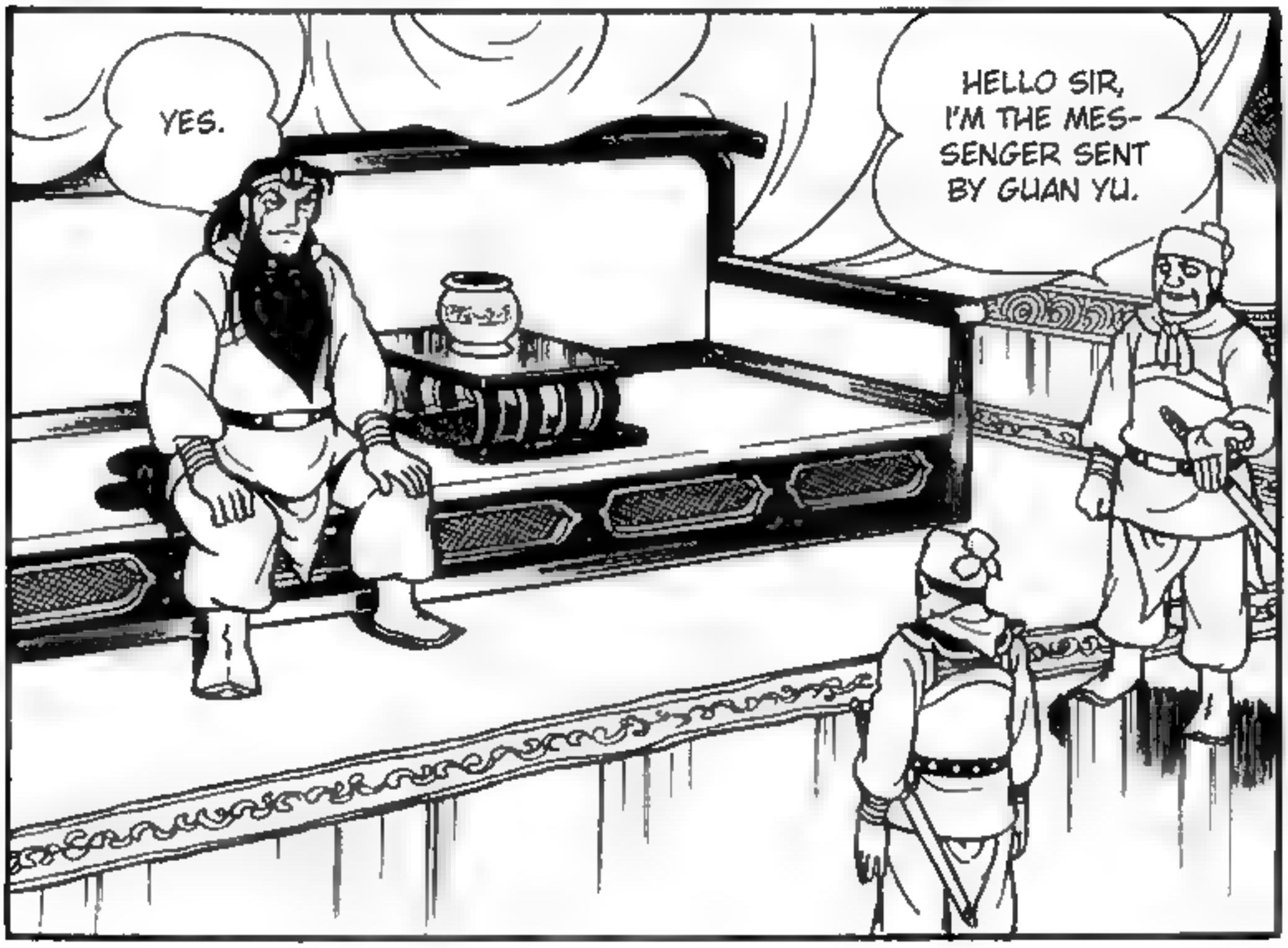
YES, SIR.

LET HIM IN.

YOU MAY ENTER.

FOLLOW ME.




YES.
HELLO SIR, I'M THE MES- SENGER SENT BY GUAN YU.

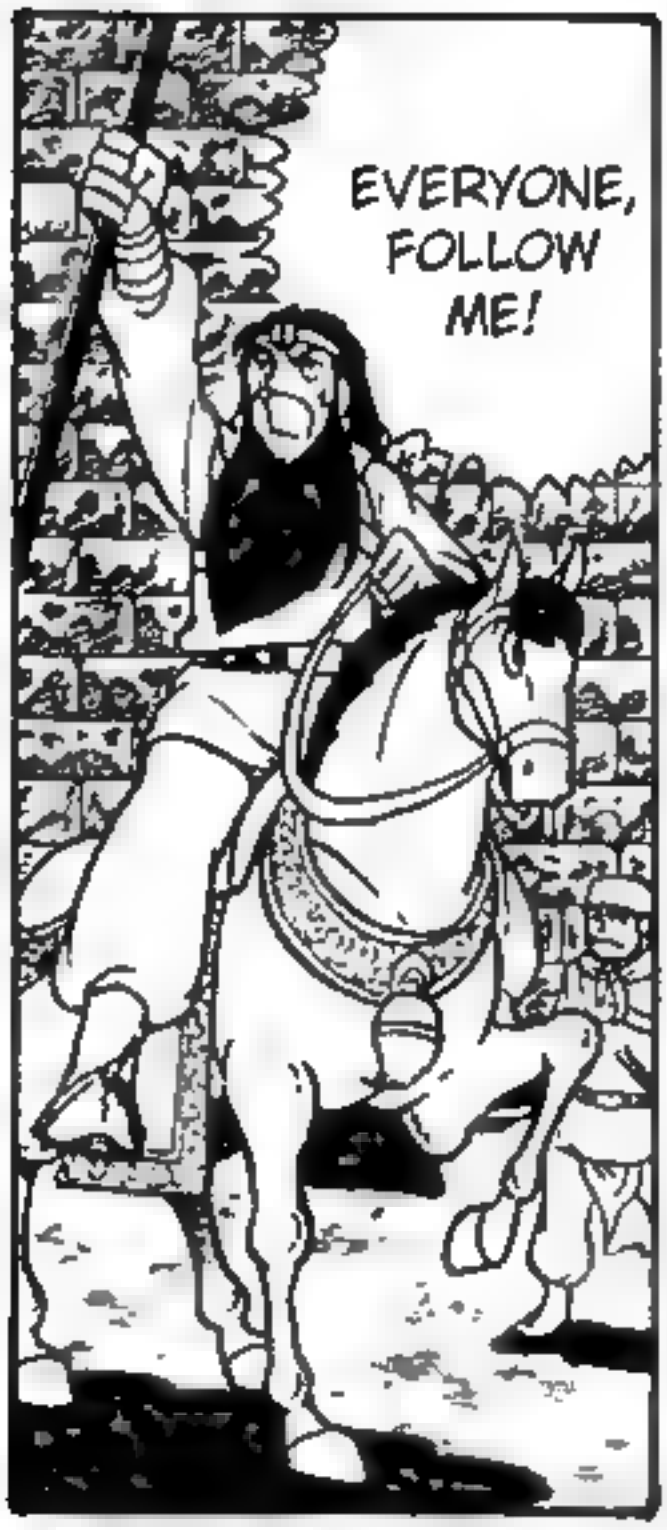
YES, JUST GET TO THE MAIN POINT.

IT'S A PLEASURE TO SEE SIR SAFE AND SOUND.

HE'S HERE!?

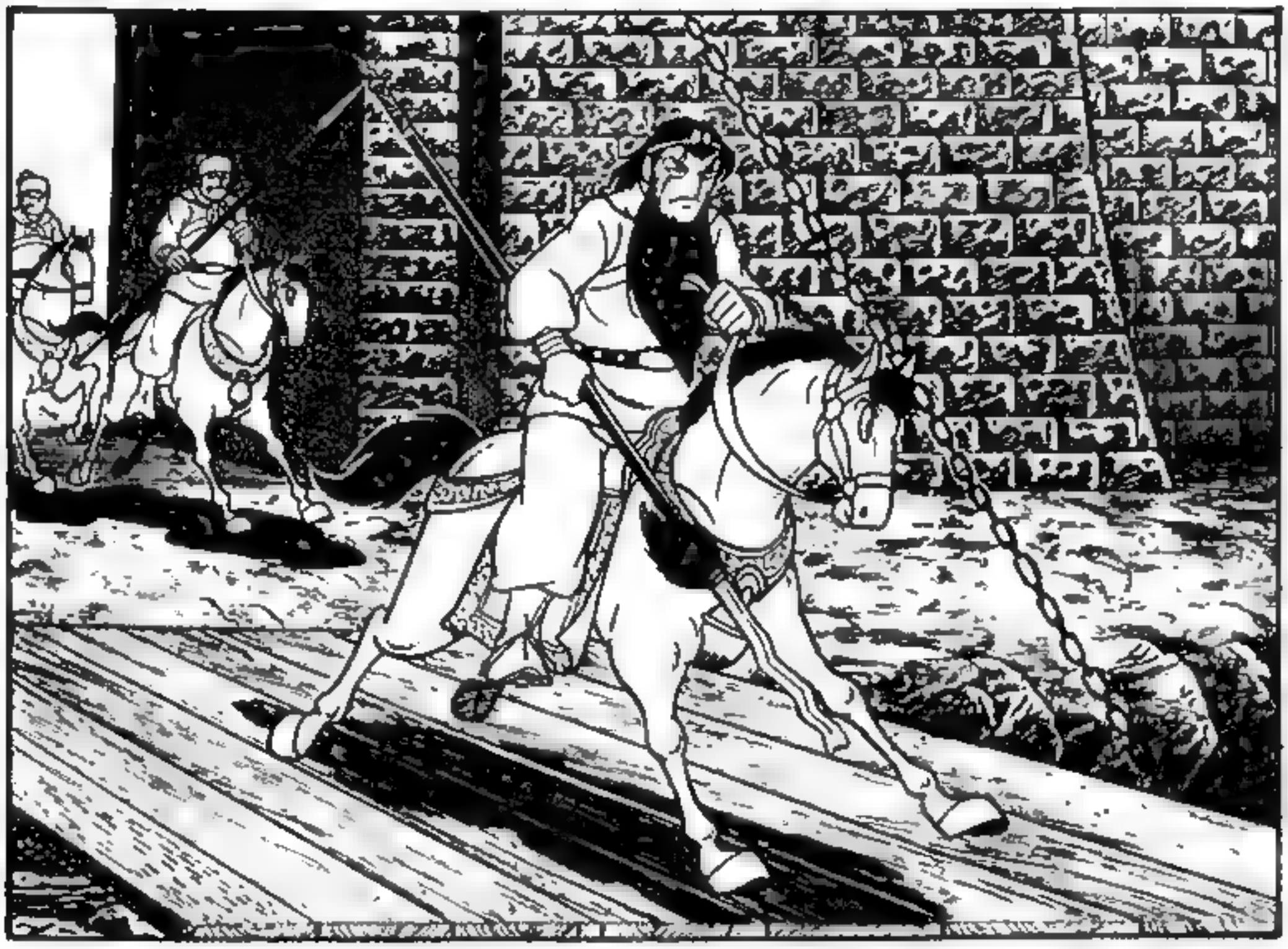
MILADY AND GUAN YU HAVE LEFT XUCHANG AND ARE NOW CLOSE BY THIS CASTLE.

YES, AND SO GUAN YU ASKED SIR TO COME OUT AND WELCOME THE MILADY.

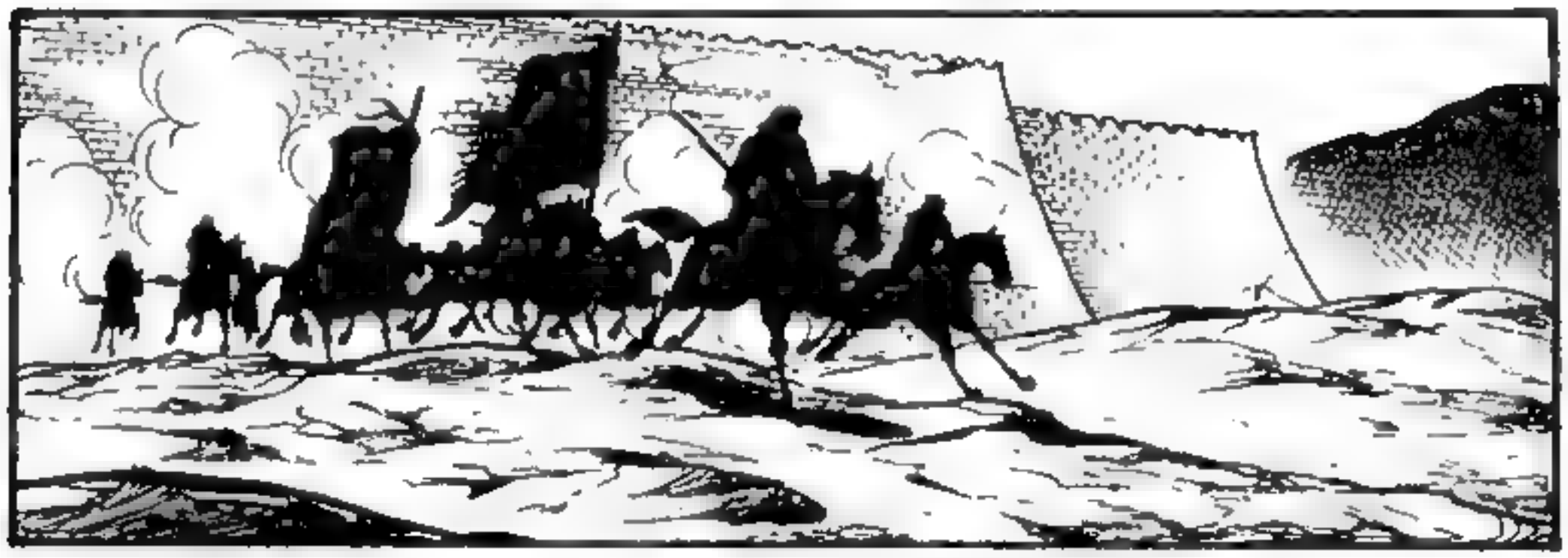

EVERYONE, FOLLOW ME!

PREPARE MY HORSE!

?



GOOD, HE'S COMING OUT AT ONCE.



LONG TIME NO SEE, BROTHER.

WHERE ARE YOU, GUAN YU!?

YOU BACK-STABBING, SON OF A...!

ZHANG FEI! HAVE YOU GONE MAD!?

YOU WAG YOUR TAIL AT THAT REBEL CAO CAO AND NOW YOU NONCHANTLY COME BACK AND PRETEND EVERYTHING'S BACK TO NORMAL!?

I'M NOT THE ONE THAT'S MAD, YOU MANGY CUR!

WE MAY HAVE SWORN AN OATH OF BROTHERHOOD BUT I CANNOT CALL YOU MY BROTHER ANYMORE. IT'S TIME TO END OUR TIES FOR GOOD!

HMPH! I CAN IMAGINE JUST WHAT KIND OF LIES YOU FED TO THE MILADY!

CEASE THIS AT ONCE! WHY DON'T YOU JUST ASK MILADY ABOUT WHAT REALLY HAPPENED?

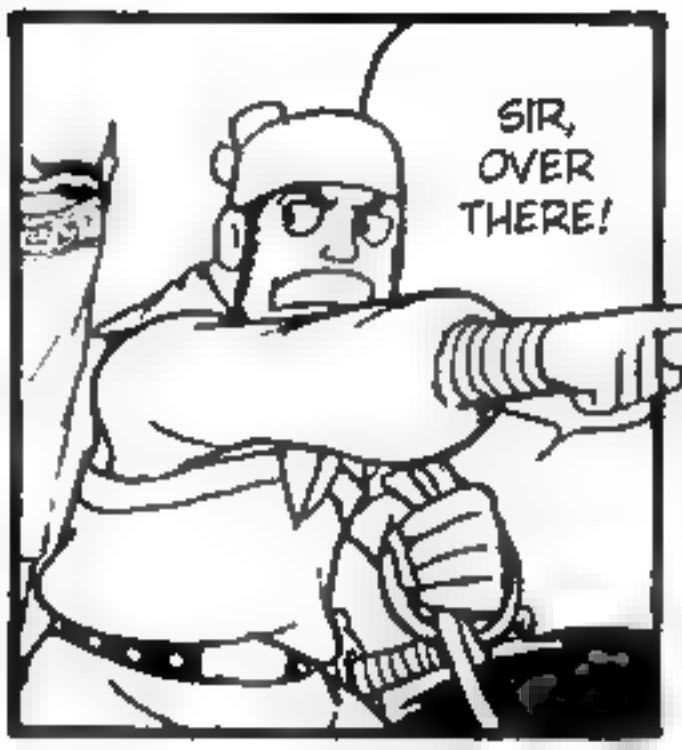
MILADY, YOU MUSTN'T TRUST IN SOMEONE DISHONOURABLE ENOUGH TO SERVE TWO MASTERS.

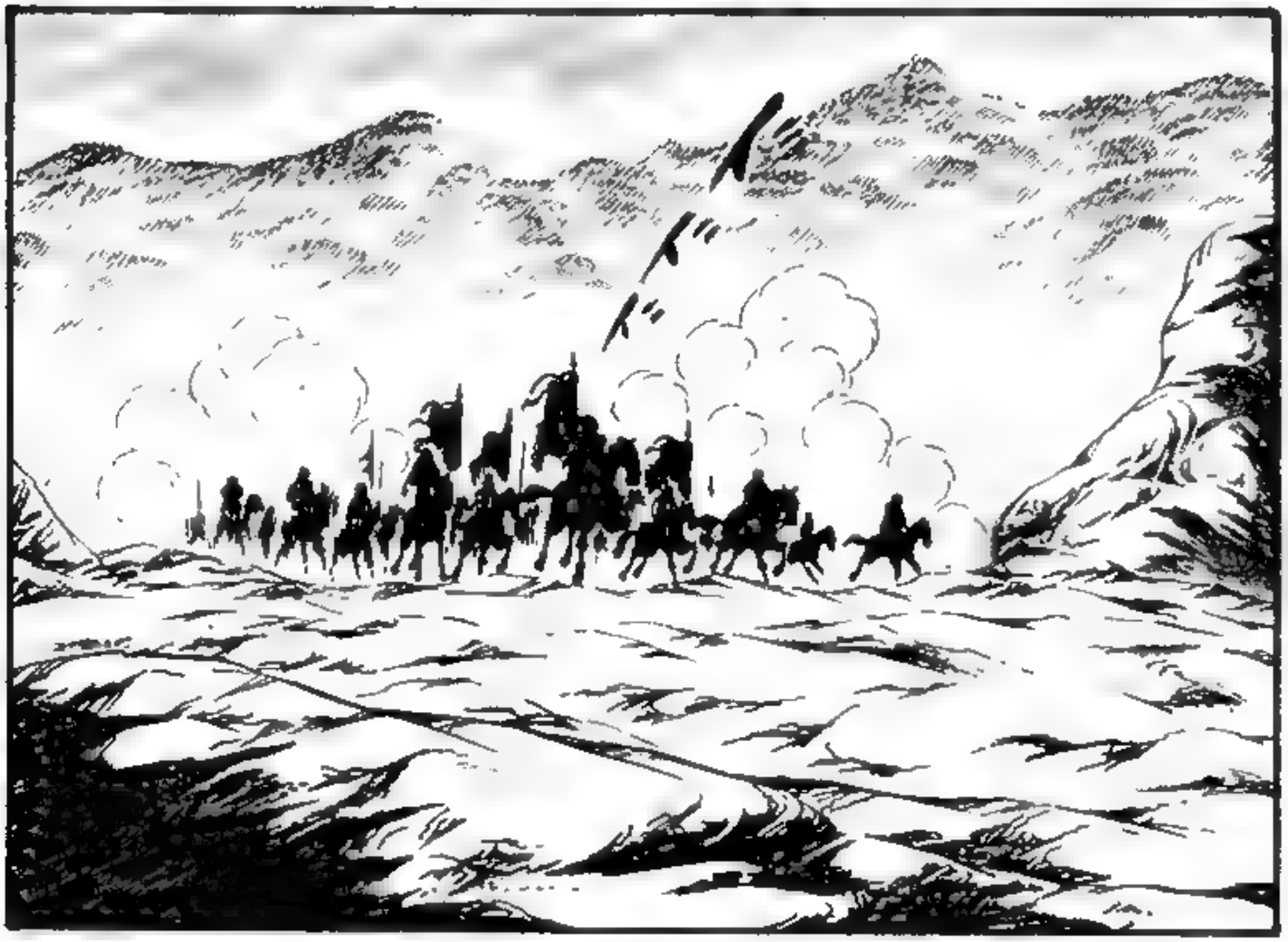
ZHANG FEI, WHAT IN HEAVENS ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? GUAN YU HERE HAS TIRELESSLY WORKED TO KEEP ME SAFE.

I SHALL TAKE MILADY INTO THE CASTLE ONCE I'M FINISHED WITH THIS DISLOYAL WRETCH.

SAVE YOUR WORDS, YOU SHAN'T FOOL ME!

COME BACK TO YOUR SENSES!





FLAGS (蔡) READ CAI T OR CAI YANG

PLANNING ON LURING ME OUT AND THEN AMBUSHING ME, WERE YOU?

JUST AS I THOUGHT, YOU *ARE* STILL WORKING FOR CAO CAO.

IT'S CAO CAO'S ARMY!

SILENCE! I WON'T HEAR IT!

NO, YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG IDEA!

HMM... WELL, BRING ME THAT ENEMY GENERAL'S HEAD AND I'LL ACCEPT THAT YOU'RE NOT CAO CAO'S UNDERLING.

JUST WHAT CAN I DO TO GET YOU TO BELIEVE ME?

FINE.

HALT! IDENTIFY YOUR-SELF!

AH, I'VE FINALLY CAUGHT UP TO YOU, GUAN YU.
蔡
蔡

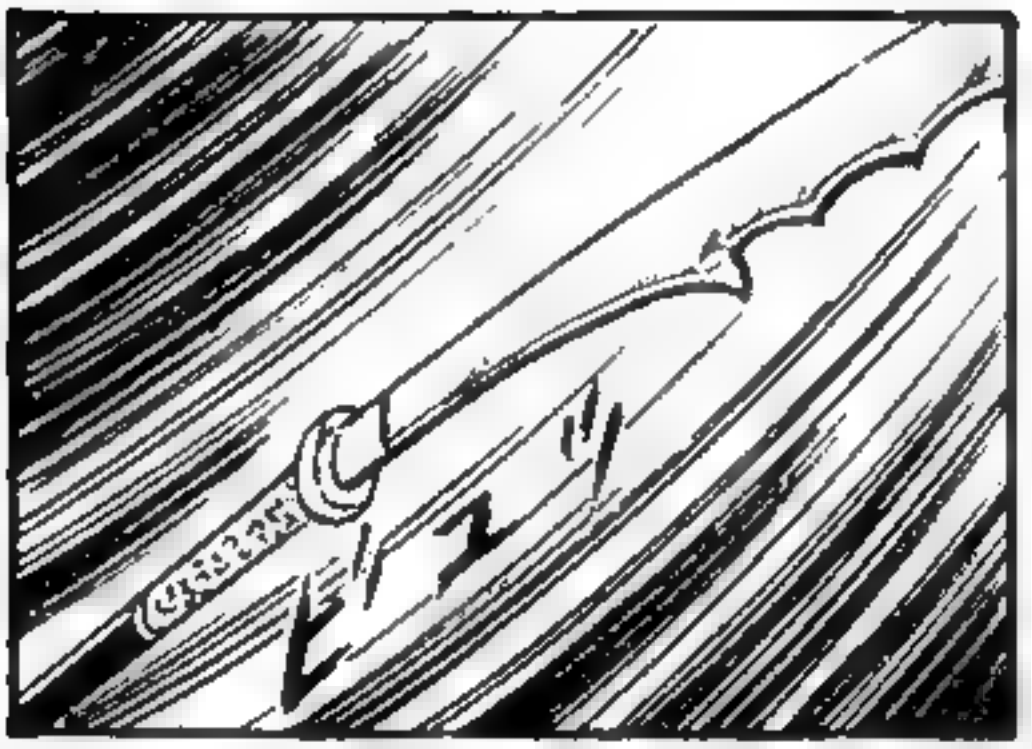
AND WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?

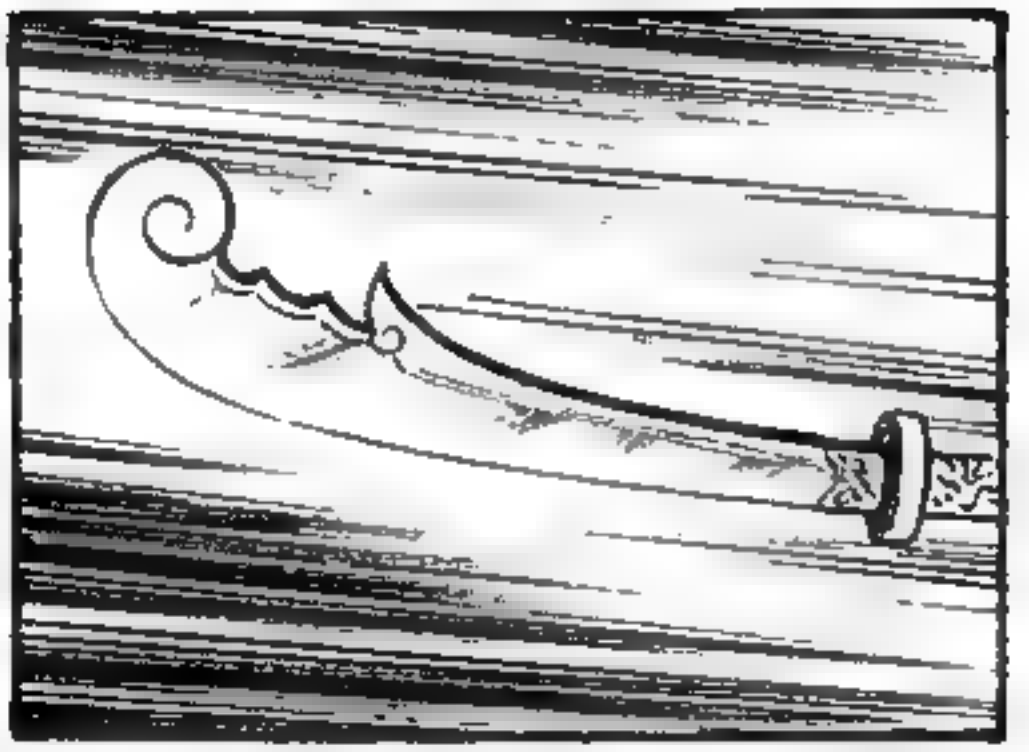
I AM GENERAL CAI YANG.

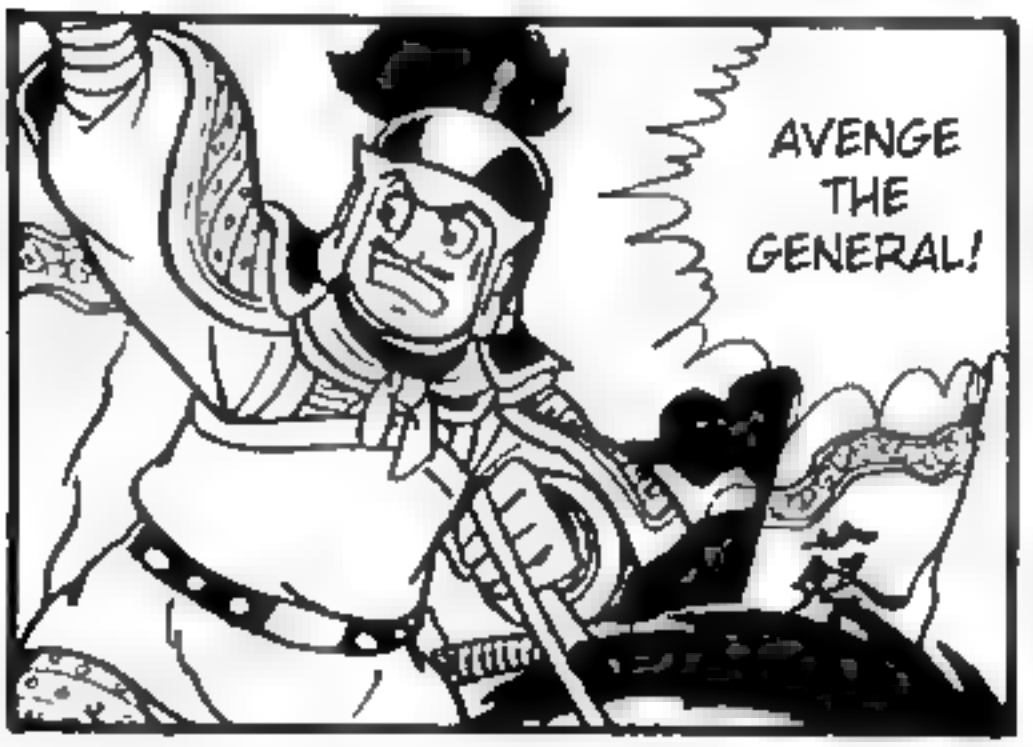
YOU KILLED MY NEPHEW, QIN QI, BACK AT HUAZHOU. I'VE COME TO AVENGE HIS DEATH.

PITIFUL.

YOUR HEAD IS MINE!





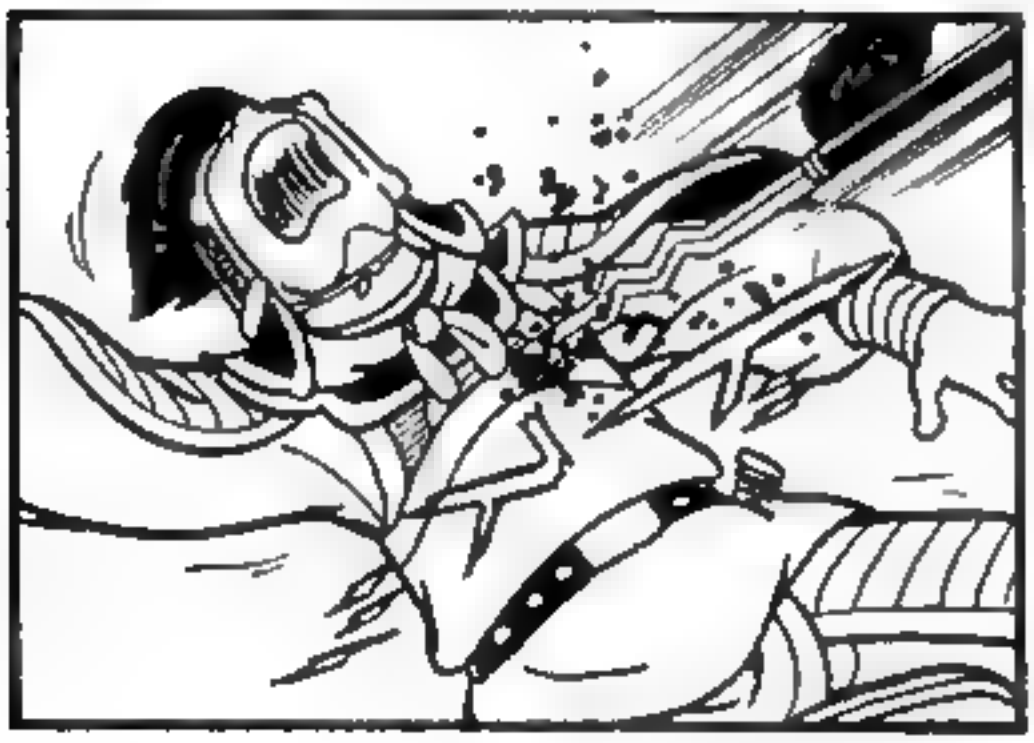

AVENGE THE GENERAL!

AGH!

N-NO.

ZHANG FEI, DO YOU STILL REFUSE TO BELIEVE GENERAL GUAN YU?

CHARGE!

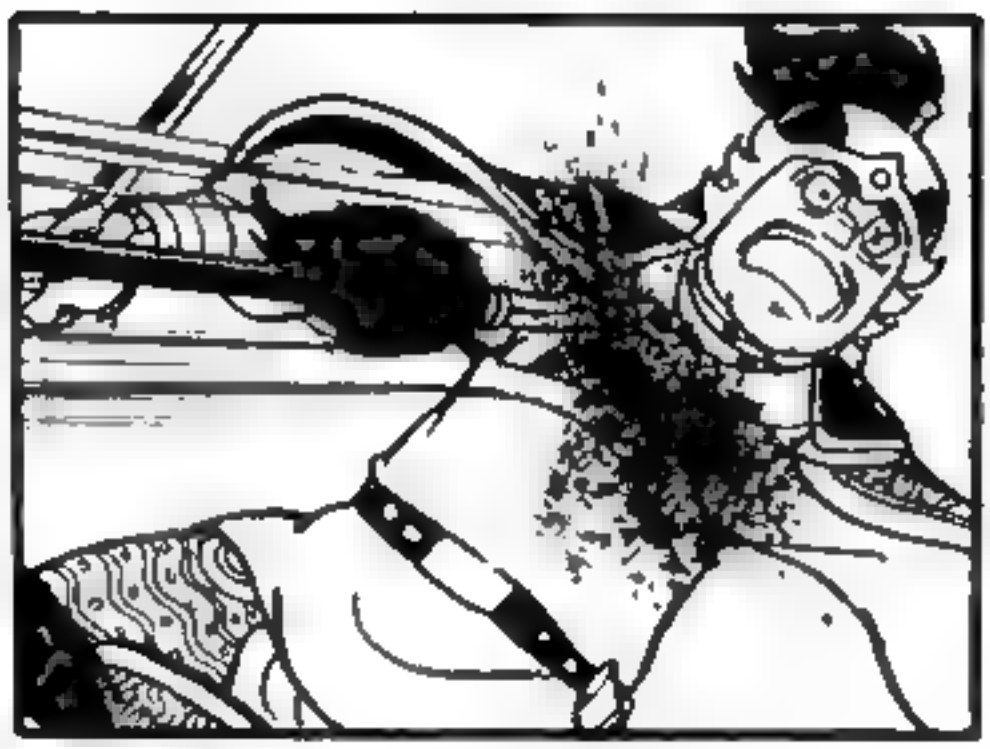


YES, SORRY ABOUT EARLIER.

ZHANG FEI, HAVE I CLEARED AWAY YOUR SUSPICIONS?

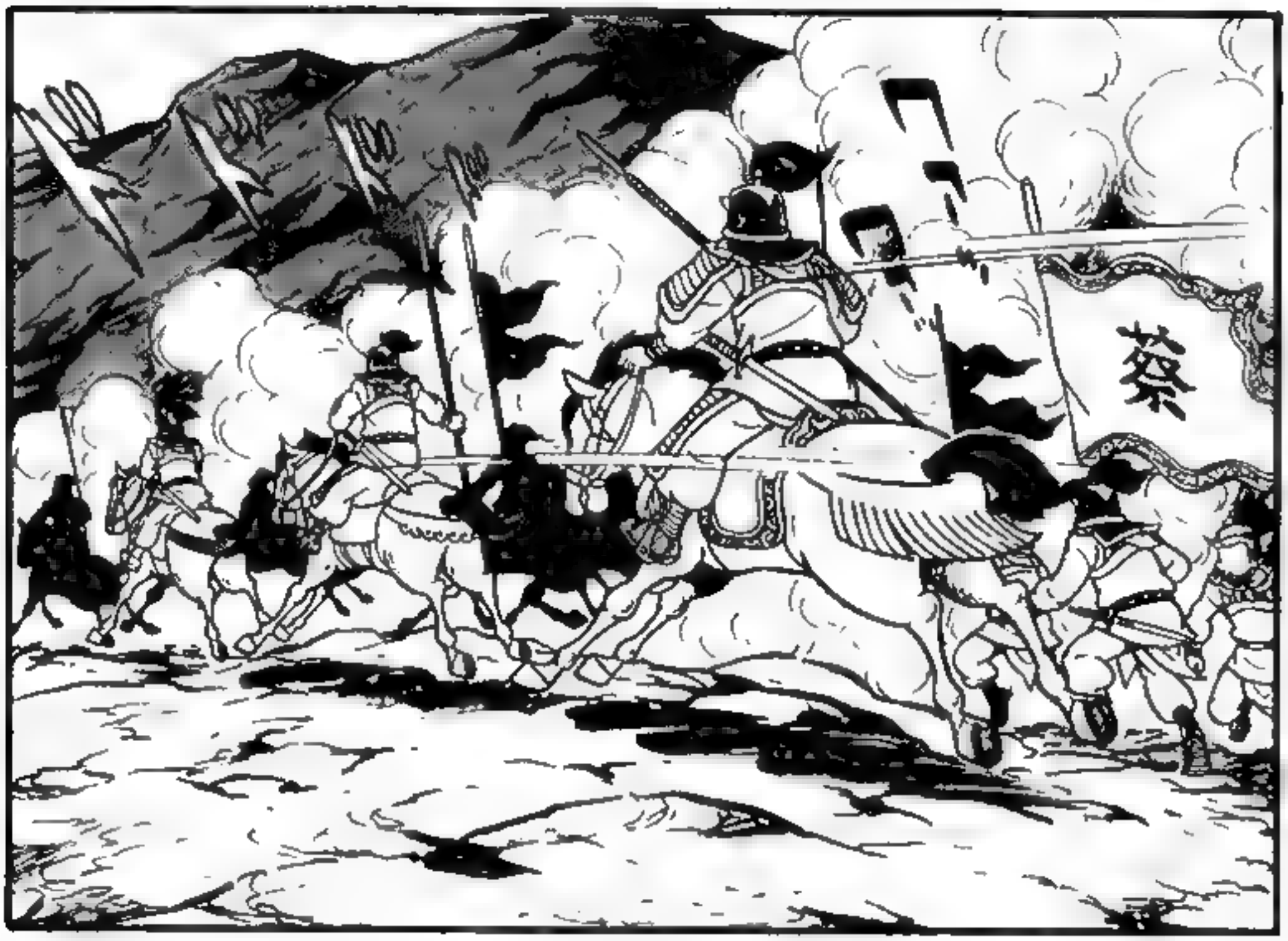
COME AT ME ONLY IF YOU HAVE NO REGRETS LEFT IN THIS WORLD!

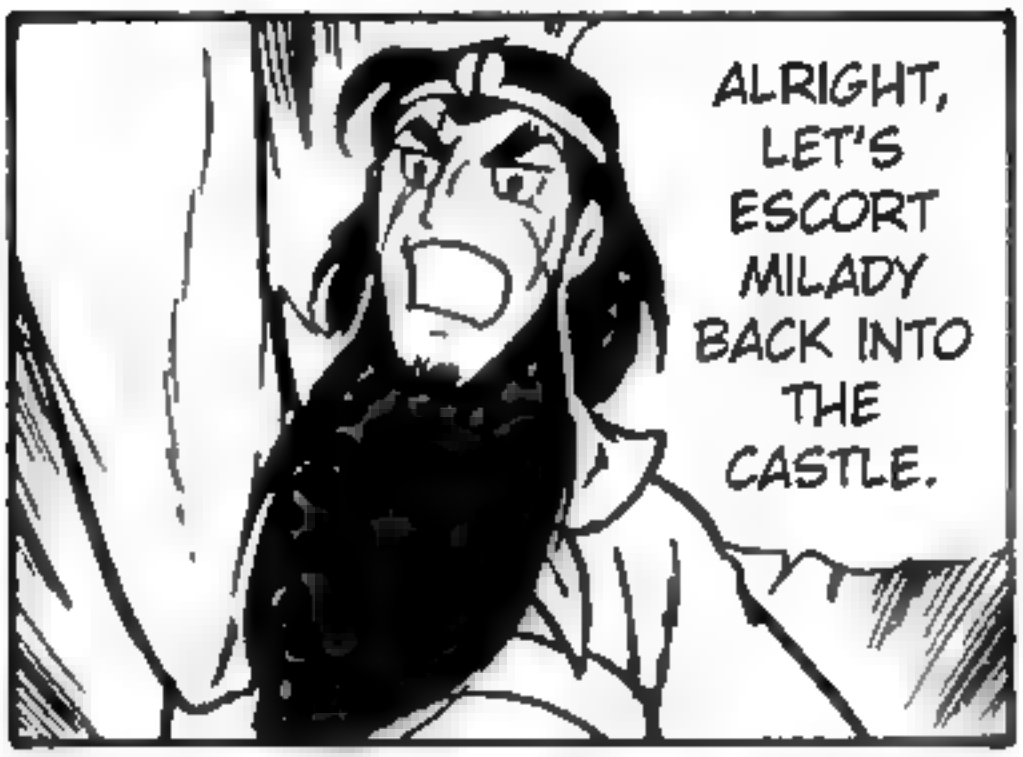
ACK!



RETREAT!
RETREAT!
RETREAT!

IT'S TOUGH ENOUGH TRYING TO HANDLE GUAN YU ALONE BUT WITH HIM, THIS IS TOO MUCH!




ALRIGHT, LET'S ESCORT MILADY BACK INTO THE CASTLE.

HAH, LOOK AT THOSE COWARDS RUN.

SO YOU FINALLY BELIEVE US NOW.

I HAD NO IDEA MILADY AND MY BROTHER WENT THROUGH SUCH AN ORDEAL.

BRO-THER.

THE MORE I LISTEN, THE MORE I REALIZE MY FOLLY.

DON'T WORRY, I'M JUST GLAD YOU FINALLY UNDERSTAND.

CAN YOU EVER FORGIVE ME?

I'M SO SORRY.

I'M JUST SO ASHAMED OF HOW I ACTED EARLIER...

YES, BRO-THER.

ZHANG FEI. I FORIVE YOU. NOW LET'S LET BYGONES BE BYGONES. WHY DON'T WE ENJOY A DRINK TOGETHER LIKE OLD TIMES?

AH, YES. 3000 SOLDIERS HAVE GATHERED WITHIN THE 3 MONTHS I'VE BEEN HERE.

BY THE WAY, I'VE HEARD THAT YOU'VE GATHERED QUITE A FOLLOWING HERE.

ONCE I GATHER ENOUGH MEN, I'LL CONQUER A COUPLE COMMANDERIES AND PRESENT IT TO OUR LORD AS A GIFT FOR WHEN I REUNITE WITH HIM.

AT THIS RATE, THERE'LL BE PLENTY MORE.

IS THAT TRUE!?

SPEAKING OF OUR LORD, I HEARD HE'S CURRENTLY WITH YUAN SHAO.

THEN I'LL COME ALONG AS WELL!

YES, SO I'M PLANNING ON RETURNING TO HIS SIDE IMMEDIATELY.

THIS CASTLE MAY BECOME AN IMPORTANT BASE FOR US IN THE FUTURE. YOU MUST KEEP GOOD GUARD OF IT.

NO, I THINK IT WOULD BE BEST FOR YOU TO STAY HERE AND KEEP MILADY SAFE.

HMM?

THERE'S ACTUALLY ONE OTHER HINDRANCE TO REUNITING WITH OUR LORD.

I SEE.

I HAVE TO TRY AND MEET HIM IN SECRET SOMEHOW.

I SLEW YUAN SHAO'S GENERALS, YAN LIANG AND WEN CHOU. IF I TRY TO SEE MY LORD NOW AS IF NOTHING HAPPENED, IT'LL PUT HIM IN A VERY DIFFICULT POSITION.

I'LL BE LEAVING FIRST THING TOMO-RROW SO I'LL ENTRUST MILADY TO YOU.

THAT WILL BE QUITE THE HASSLE.

THANK YOU.

YES, DON'T WORRY.

IT WOULD PLEASE MY LORD IF YOU WERE TO CALL IN YOUR BANDIT ALLIES THAT WANTED TO SERVE MY LORD TO ESCORT HIM ON HIS WAY BACK FROM HEBEI.

YES?
ZHOU CANG.

I'M SURE THEY'LL BE OVERJOYED TO HEAR THE NEWS.

SO HE'LL AGREE TO TAKE THEM IN?

I SHALL CATCH UP TO SIR LATER.

ALRIGHT, LET US GO ON AHEAD.

AFTER MEETING UP WITH ZHANG FEI AND THINKING OF REUNITING WITH LIU BEI IN THE NEAR FUTURE, GUAN YU FELT THE MEMORIES OF ALL HIS HARDSHIPS MELT AWAY

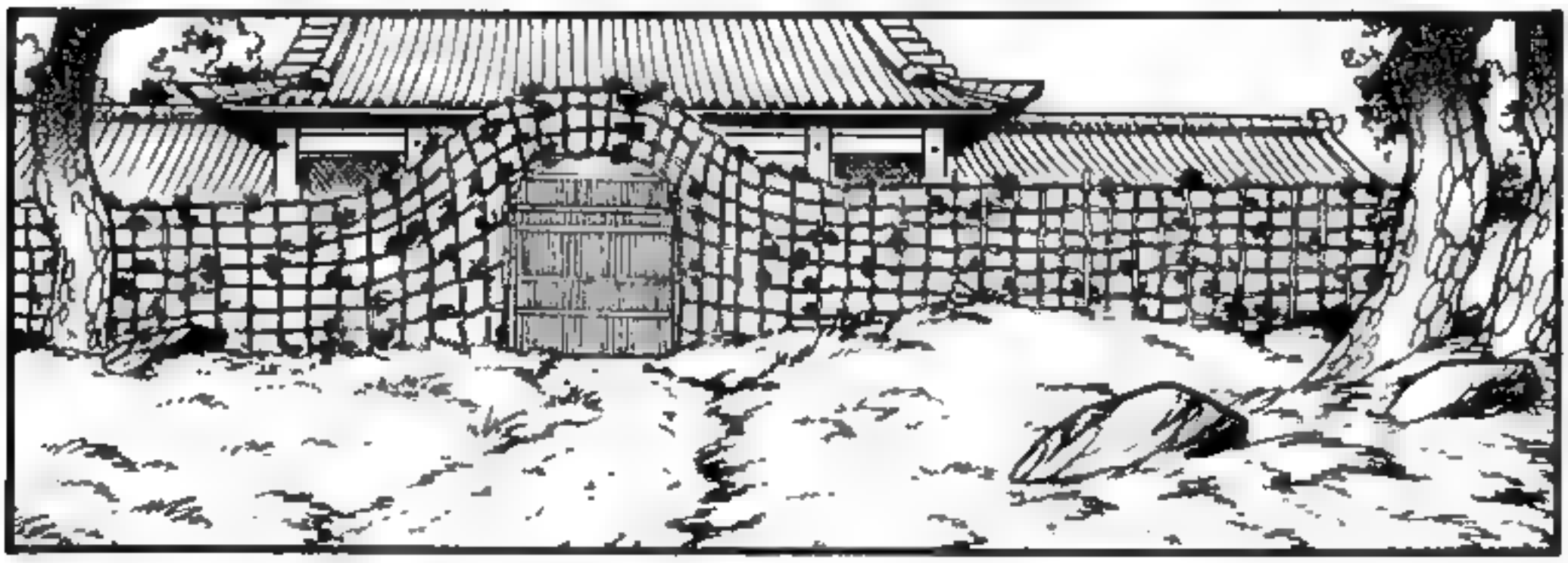
REUNION OF LORD AND SERVANT

SO WE'VE ARRIVED AT LAST...
SIR, FROM HERE ON OUT IS JIZHOU.
YES, BEST TO KEEP A LOW PROFILE FOR NOW...
I'M AFRAID SIR MAY BE TOO WELL KNOWN AROUND THESE PARTS. IT WOULD BE BEST FOR ME TO GO AHEAD AND CONTACT OUR LORD IN SECRET.

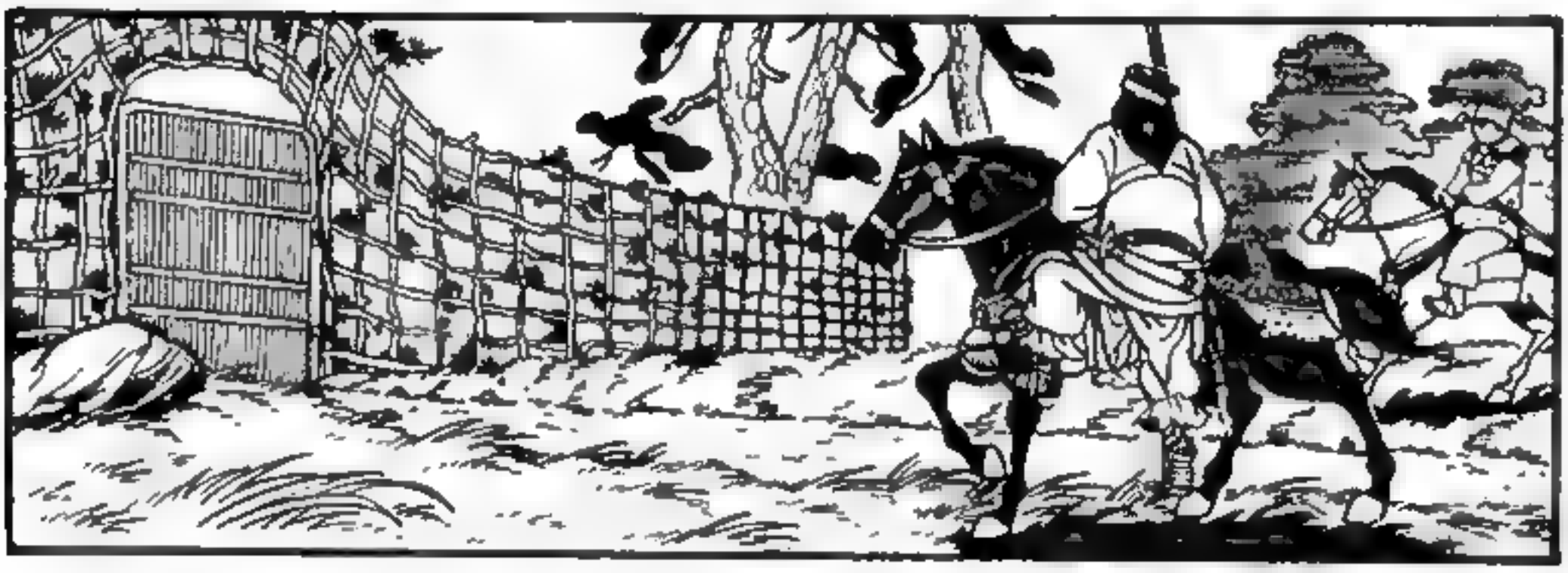
SIGN (冀州) READS JIZHOU

SIR, OVER THERE.

I WONDER IF THERE'S A PLACE I CAN STAY AT IN THE MEAN-WHILE.



AH, GOOD. LET'S GO ASK THE OWNER OVER THERE.



WHO IS IT?

ANYBODY HOME?

I'M AFRAID THERE AREN'T ANY LODGINGS OR HOSTELS AROUND THESE PARTS.

GOOD DAY, SIR. I'M A TRAVELLER SEEKING A PLACE TO STAY FOR 4 OR 5 DAYS.

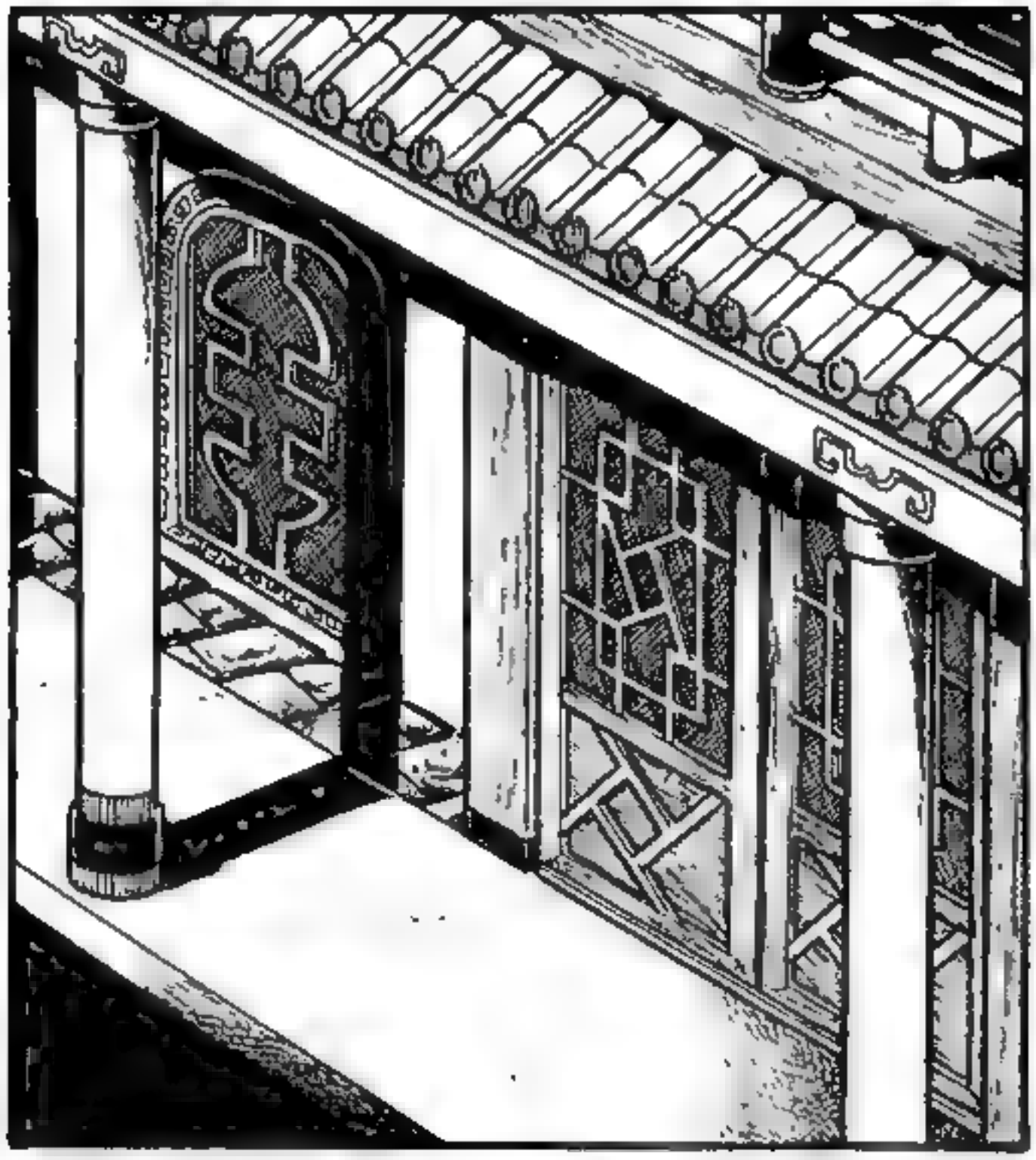
THANK YOU, SIR.

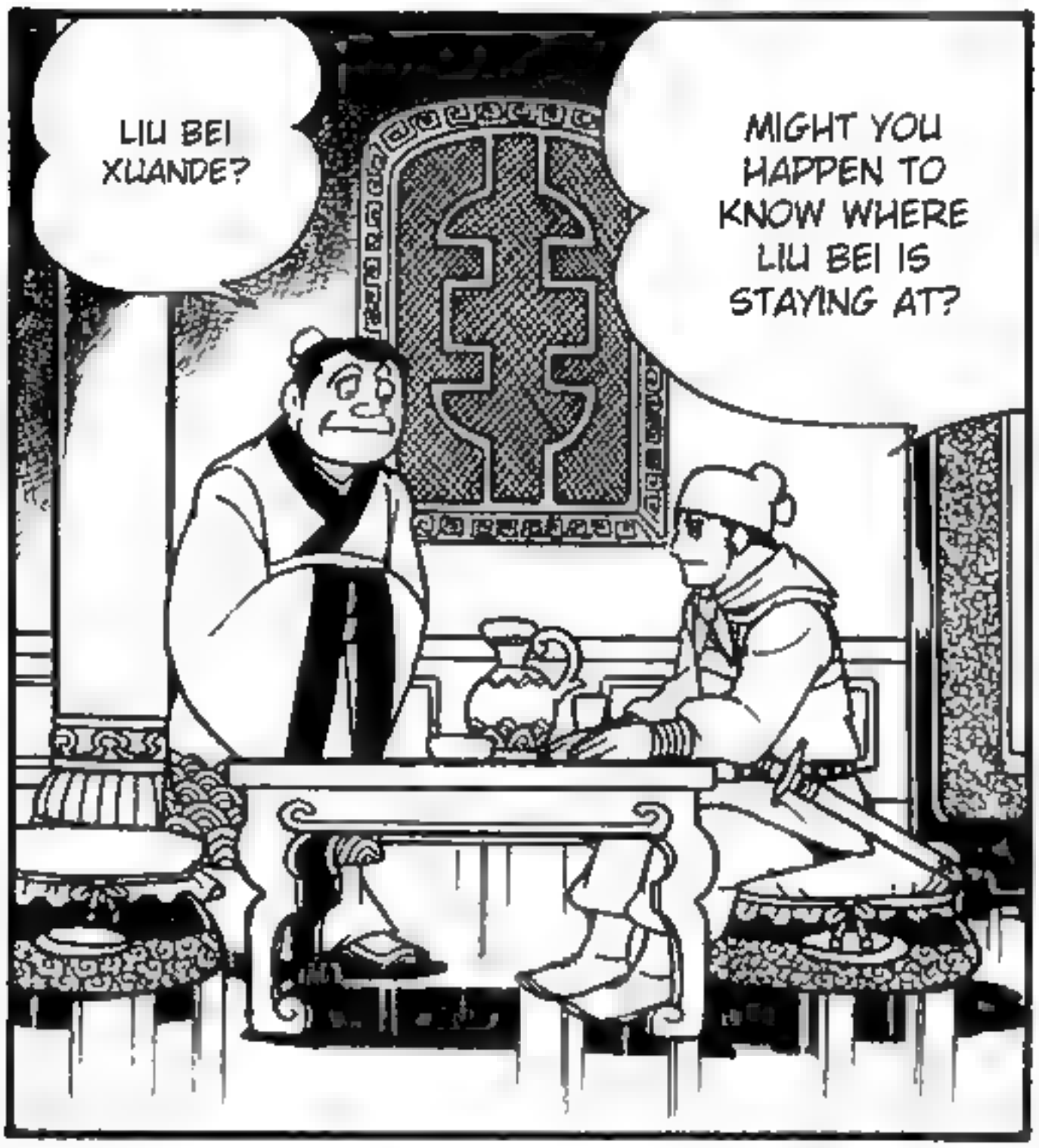
BUT ! HAVE PLENTY OF ROOMS TO SPARE IN MY HOME. YOU'D BE MORE THAN WELCOME TO STAY HERE.

EXCUSE ME THEN.

YES, SIR.

ALRIGHT, I SHALL WAIT HERE IN THE MEAN-WHILE.

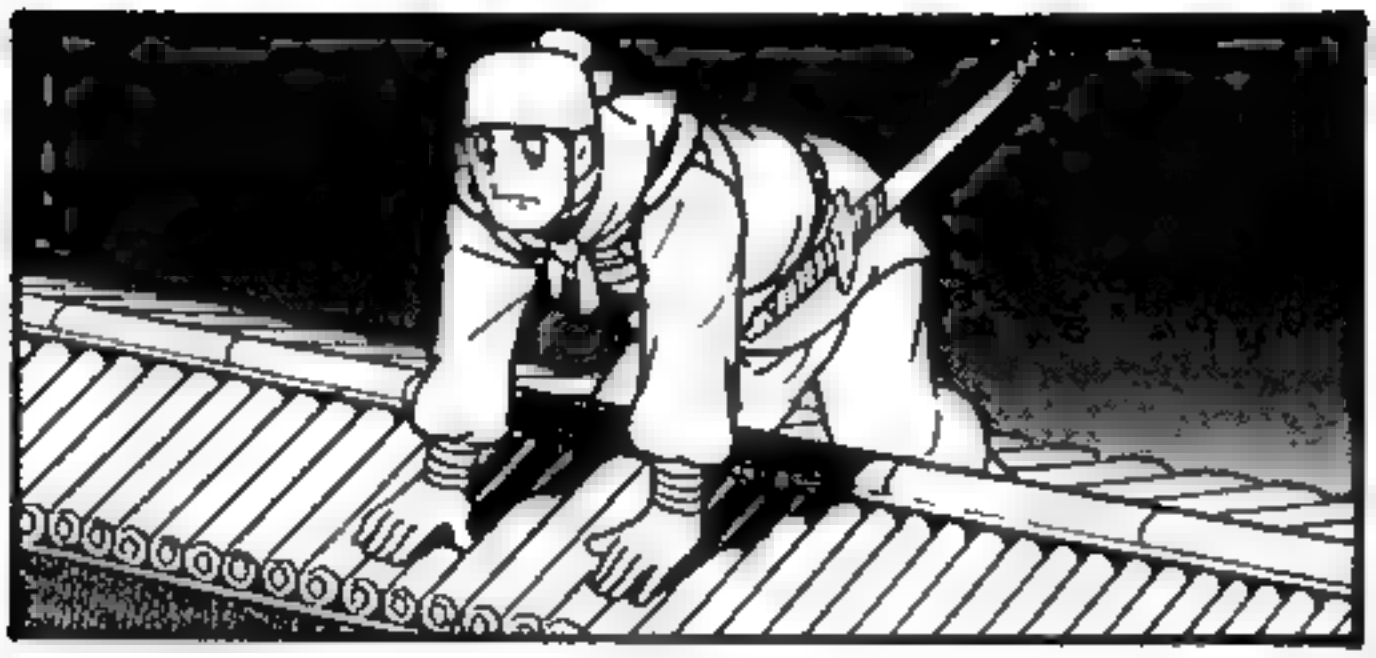


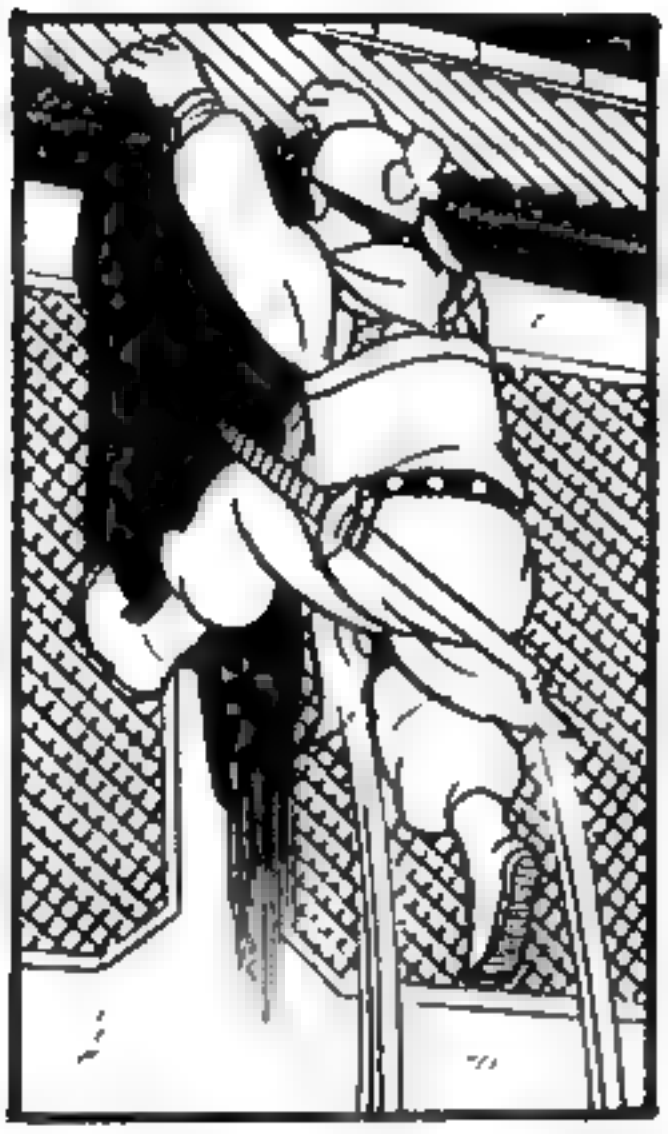

LIU BEI XUANDE?
MIGHT YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW WHERE LIU BEI IS STAYING AT?

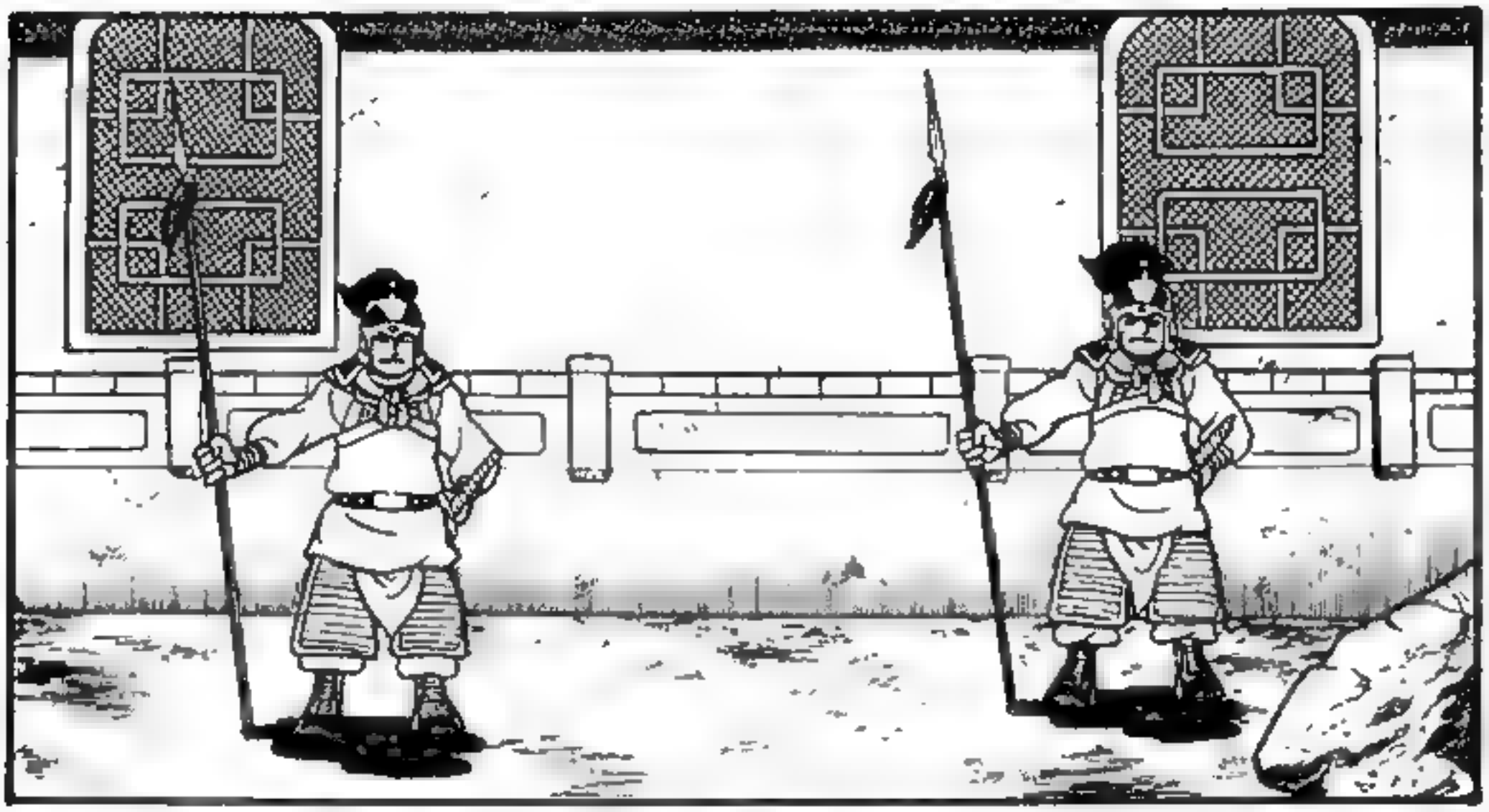
THANK YOU.

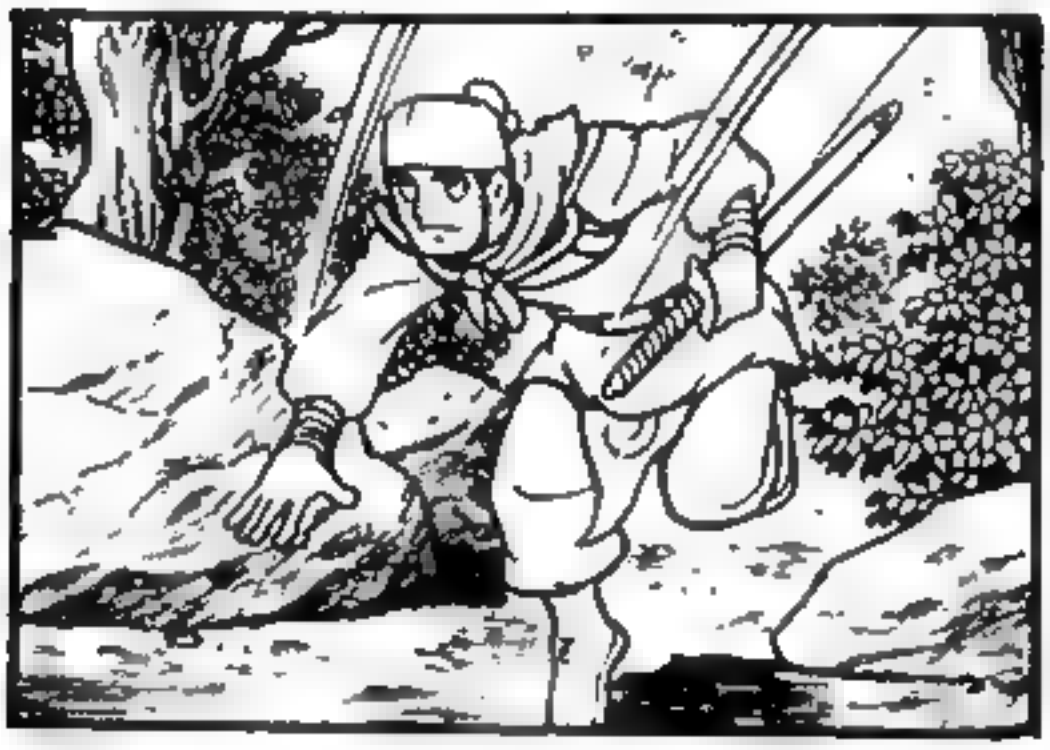
IF YOU HEAD EAST FROM HERE, YOU'LL COME ACROSS A LARGE MANSION THAT LIU BEI IS STAYING AT.

THIS MUST BE THE PLACE.









HMM, THE SECURITY'S SURPRISINGLY QUITE TIGHT.

NOW WHERE COULD HE BE...?

MY LORD...

I'M A MESSENGER OF GENERAL GUAN YU.

WHO'S THERE!?

GUAN YU!?

COME IN NOW BEFORE ANYONE NOTICES.

SHUT THE DOOR.

IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET MY LORD AGAIN.

YES, I WAS VERY SURPRISED TO SEE SO MANY GUARDS.

YOU DID WELL SNEAKING IN DESPITE THE HEAVY SECURITY OUTSIDE.

HE THINKS THAT I MAY BE SECRETLY CONSPIRING WITH CAO CAO BECAUSE OF GUAN YU.

IT'S BECAUSE I'M STILL UNDER YUAN SHAO'S SUSPICION.

YES, MY LORD. GENERAL GUAN YU HAS COME ALL THE WAY TO JIZHOU'S BORDERS TO REUNITE AGAIN WITH SIR.

SO IS MY BROTHER WELL?

AND SO HE SENT ME IN HIS STEAD.

YES BUT UNFORTUNATELY, HIS FACE IS TOO WELL KNOWN AROUND THESE PARTS FOR HIM TO COME MEET MY LORD HERE.

WHAT? HE'S HERE ALREADY?

THEY'RE ALL SAFE AND WELL!?

NOT ONLY THAT, ZHANG FEI AND MILADY IS ALSO AWAITING MY LORD.

THANK THE HEAVENS...

YES, MY LORD.

ALRIGHT, I SHALL MAKE UP SOME EXCUSE TO YUAN SHAO SO THAT I MAY LEAVE HERE WITHOUT RAISING ANY SUSPICIONS.

I WAS WRACKING MY HEAD OVER HOW TO BREAK THE CURRENT STALEMATE AGAINST CAO CAO AND I MANAGED TO THINK UP ONE GOOD IDEA...

AH, WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE TODAY, XUANDE?

BECAUSE BOTH SIDES ARE TOO EVENLY MATCHED.

THE CURRENT WAR IS DRAGGING SO LONG,

OH?

BUT IF WE CAN MAKE LIU BIAO OF JINGZHOU OUR ALLY, THEN THE BALANCE CAN BE TIPPED TO OUR ADVANTAGE.

IT'S NOT SURPRISING. HAVING CAO CAO AND I FIGHT WHILE HE STAYS CLEAR OUT OF THE CONFLICT IS MOST BENEFICIAL FOR HIM.

YES, YES. I'VE ALREADY TRIED MANY TIMES BEFORE TO CONVINCE HIM BUT HE REFUSES EVERY SINGLE TIME.

AND WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT?

I HAVE A FEELING I MAY BE ABLE TO PERSUADE HIM.

I SEE.

LIU BIAO AND I SHARE THE SAME FAMILY NAME. IF YOU GO FAR BACK UP THE FAMILY TREE, WE ARE DISTANT RELATIVES.

YOU SURE YOU CAN CONVINCE HIM?

HMM... WELL IT CERTAINLY IS WORTH A SHOT.

YES, SIR.

THEN I SHALL LEAVE FIRST THING TOMORROW.

ALRIGHT, I SHALL LEAVE IT TO YOU.

HAHA. LOOKING AT HIM WORRY LIKE THAT, I GUESS HE REALIZED JUST HOW PRECARIOUS HIS SITUATION IS.

HAVEN'T YOU HEARD FROM YOUR SUPERIORS? I SHALL BE LEAVING FOR JINGZHOU UNDER YUAN SHAO'S ORDERS.

AND WHERE IS SIR HEADED TO TODAY?

THEN FEEL FREE TO CONFIRM IT.

NO, I'M AFRAID NOT YET, SIR.

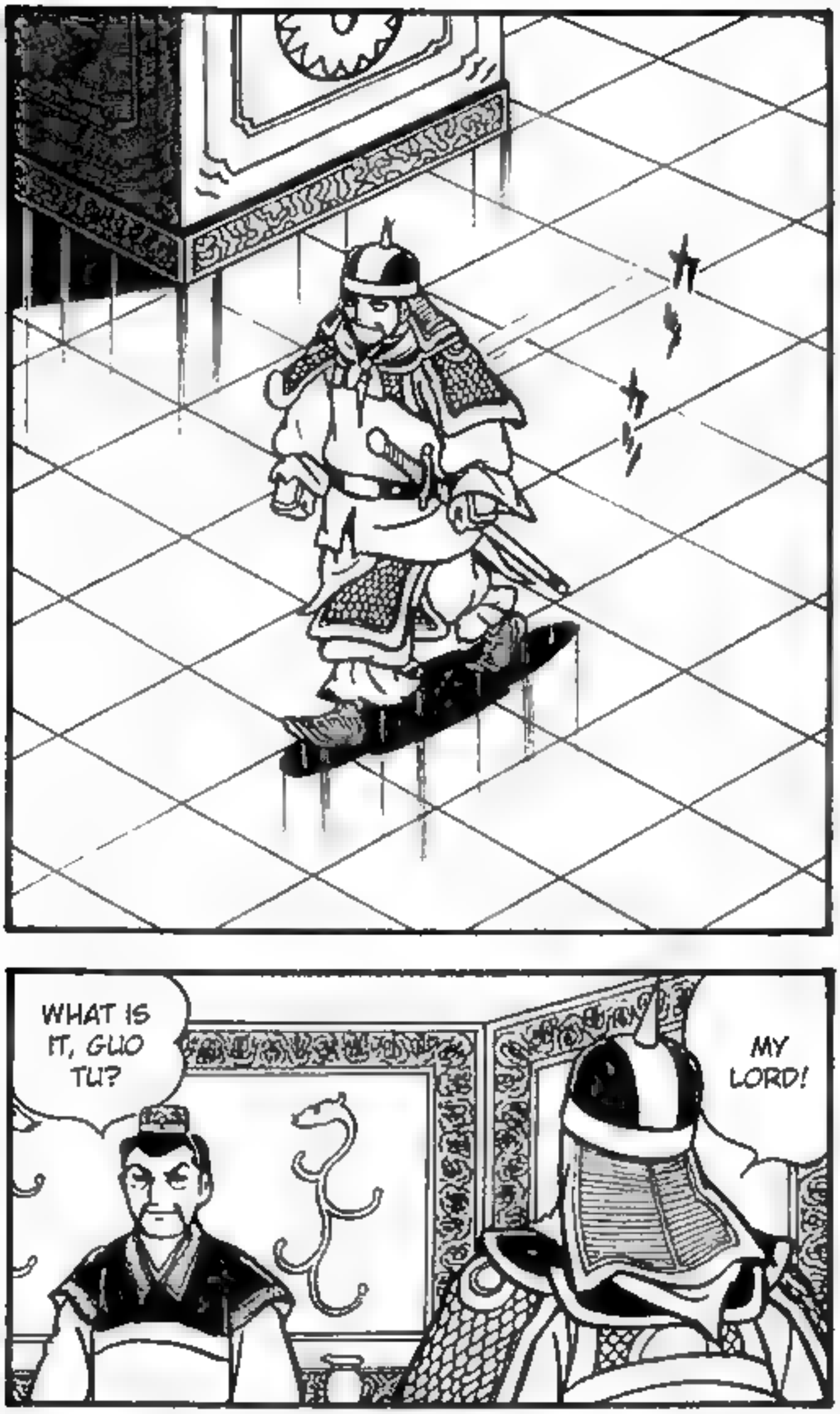
ALRIGHT, JUST A MOMENT, SIR.

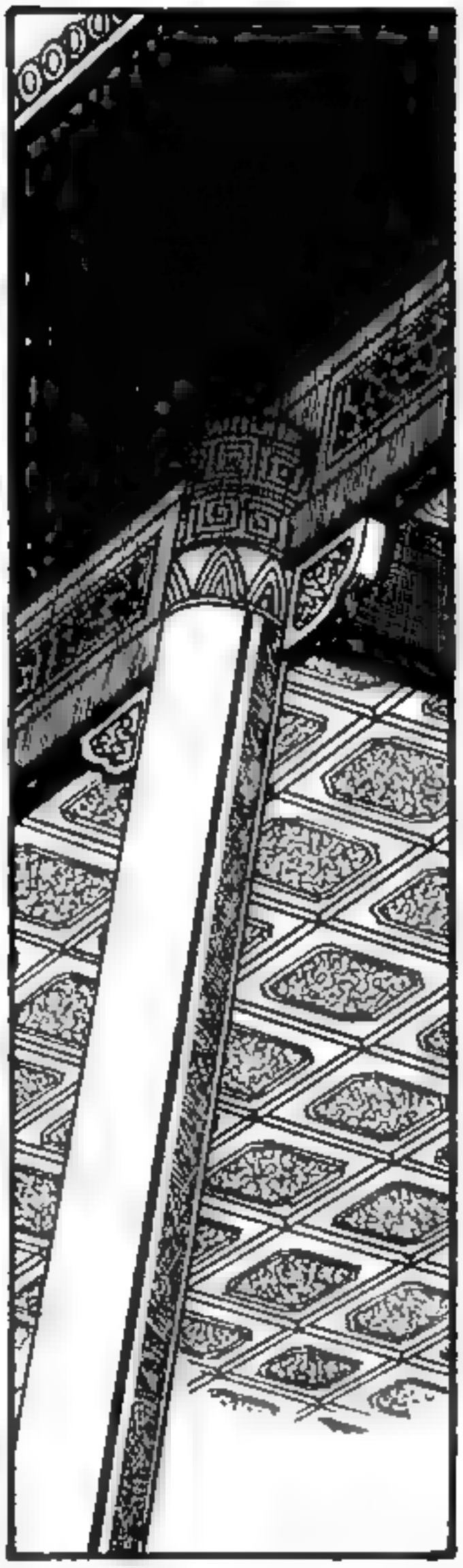
LEAVING ALREADY, SIR LIU BEI?
AH, CAPTAIN.

GOOD TO SEE WE HAVE AN UNDER-STANDING THEN.

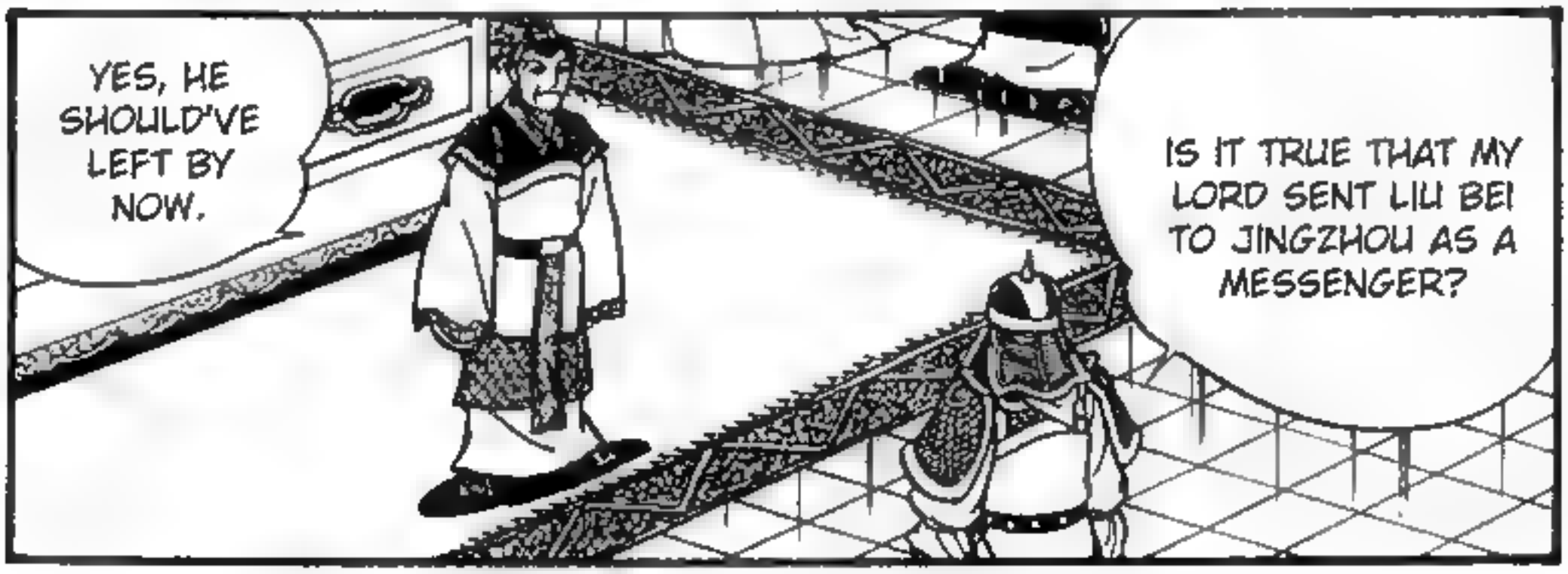
YES, I HEARD FROM THE LORD JUST AWHILE AGO.
YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS, CAPTAIN?

YES, THANK YOU CAPTAIN.
I BID SIR SUCCESS.





WHAT IS IT, GUO TU?
MY LORD!


YES, HE SHOULD'VE LEFT BY NOW.
IS IT TRUE THAT MY LORD SENT LIU BEI TO JINGZHOU AS A MESSENGER?

NO, THAT'S PRECISELY WHY I SENT HIM.

IS MY LORD UNAWARE THAT LIU BIAO AND LIU BEI ARE DISTANT RELATIVES?

WHAT!?

ARE YOU IMPLYING THAT I'D BE BITTEN BY THE VERY DOG I FEED?

BUT LIU BEI IS A RATHER MEEK INDIVIDUAL, UNFIT FOR SUCH FORCEFUL PERSUASIONS. WHAT IF LIU BIAO USES THE FACT THAT THEY'RE RELATIVES TO GET LIU BEI TO DO HIS OWN BIDDINGS?

HMM...

NOT ONLY THAT, I GET THE FEELING THAT LIU BEI WAS HIDING SOME SORT OF SECRET. TO SEND A MAN LIKE THAT ALL ALONE IS...

GO AFTER HIM.

YES, GOOD IDEA.

SHALL I FOLLOW AFTER HIM TO OBSERVE HIS ACTIONS, SIR?

WE'RE DEPARTING MEN!

AH, IT'S YOU FROM LAST NIGHT.

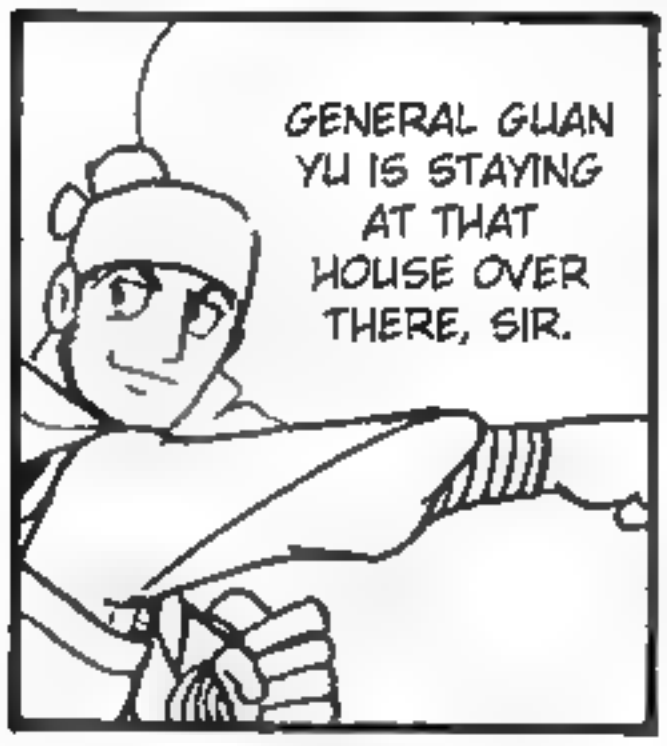
SIR!

GOOD WORK.

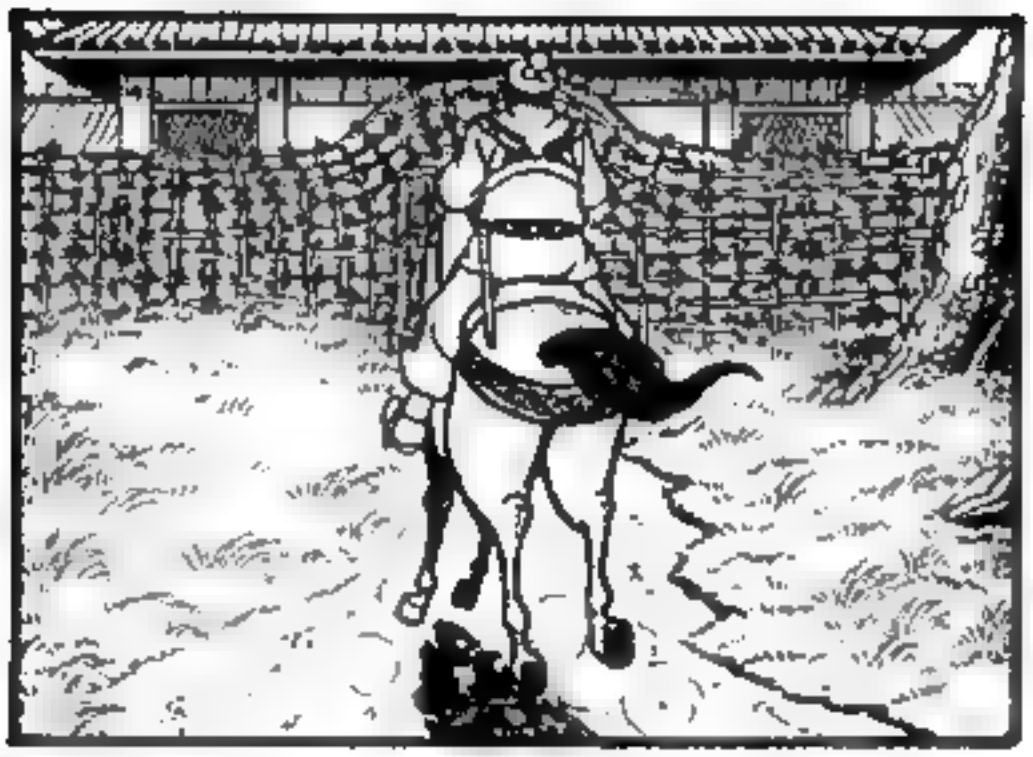
YES, I'VE BEEN AWAITING SIR OUT HERE.

THANK YOU.

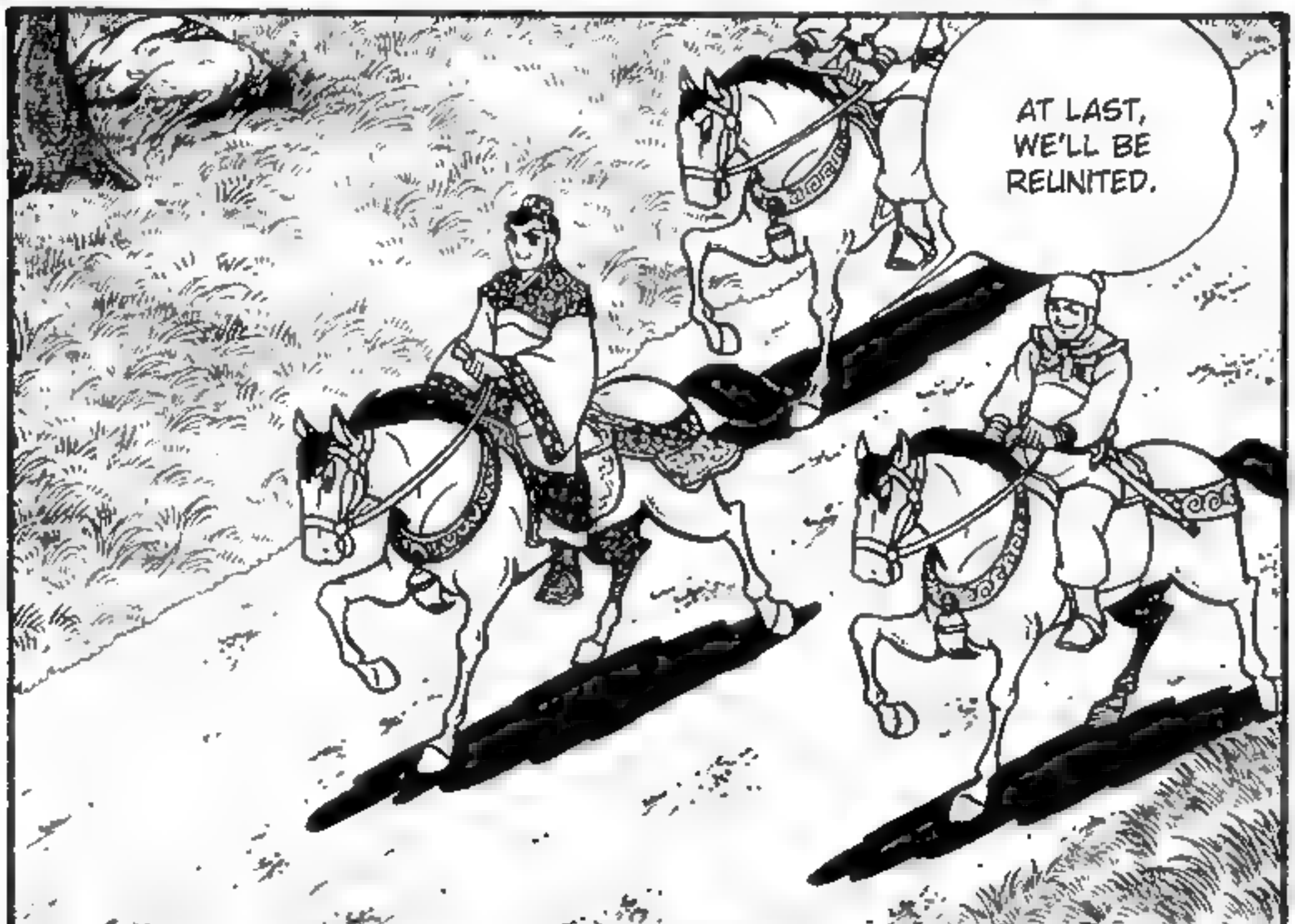
ALLOW ME TO LEAD THE WAY FROM HEREON.


GENERAL GUAN YU IS STAYING AT THAT HOUSE OVER THERE, SIR.

WE'VE ARRIVED AT JIZHOU'S BORDERS.
冀州



I'LL GO FIRST AND TELL HIM THAT SIR HAS ARRIVED.


AT LAST, WE'LL BE REUNITED.

AHH!

GUAN YU!

MY LORD!

I FEEL THE SAME WAY, BROTHER.
IT IS MY GREATEST JOY TO SEE MY LORD ALIVE AND WELL.

YOU SIRS MUST HAVE MUCH TO DISCUSS. PLEASE, COME INSIDE MY HOME.

GUAN DING? HE SHARES THE SAME FAMILY NAME AS YOU.

THIS MAN IS GUAN DING. HE ALLOWED ME TO SPEND THE NIGHT AT HIS HOUSE.

PLEASE, COME THIS WAY.

YES, IT'S A HONOUR TO HAVE THE SAME FAMILY NAME AS THE GREAT GENERAL GUAN YU.

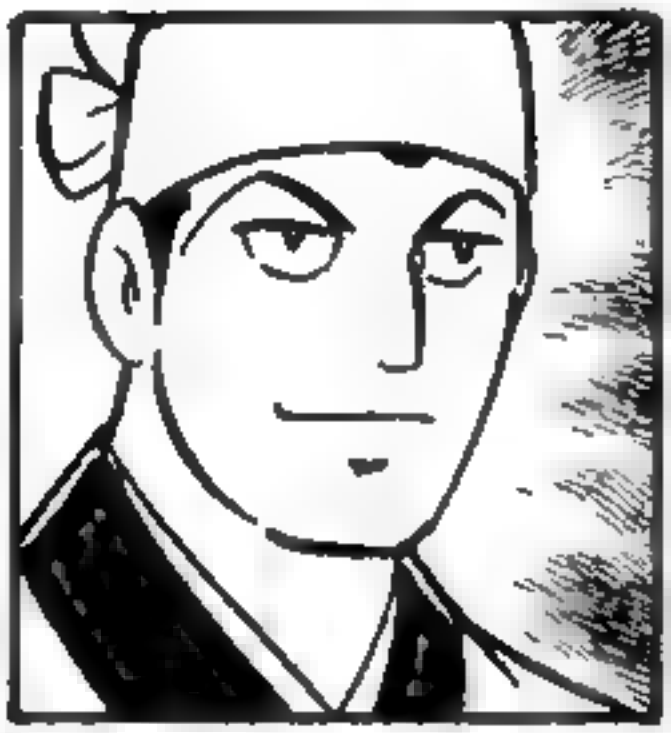
YES, I CONCUR.
THE MOST LAVISH OF MEALS CAN TASTE BAD WHEN YOU'RE ALONE. BUT WHEN YOU'RE WITH YOUR CLOSEST COMRADES, EVEN PLAIN WATER TASTES SWEET.

YES.

MAY WE NEVER PART AGAIN.

BY THE WAY, WHO'RE THOSE TWO YOUNG MEN SITTING THERE?

YES.
THEY ARE GUAN DING'S SONS, GUAN NENG AND GUAN PING. AS YOU CAN SEE, THEY'RE BOTH SPLENDID YOUNG MEN.



SOUNDS SWELL, BUT OF COURSE, IT'S UP TO GUAN DING.

GUAN YU, YOU DON'T HAVE A SON YET. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF ADOPTING ONE AS A FOSTER-SON?

I WOULD GLADLY GIVE ONE OF MY SONS TO SERVE THE GREAT GENERAL GUAN YU.

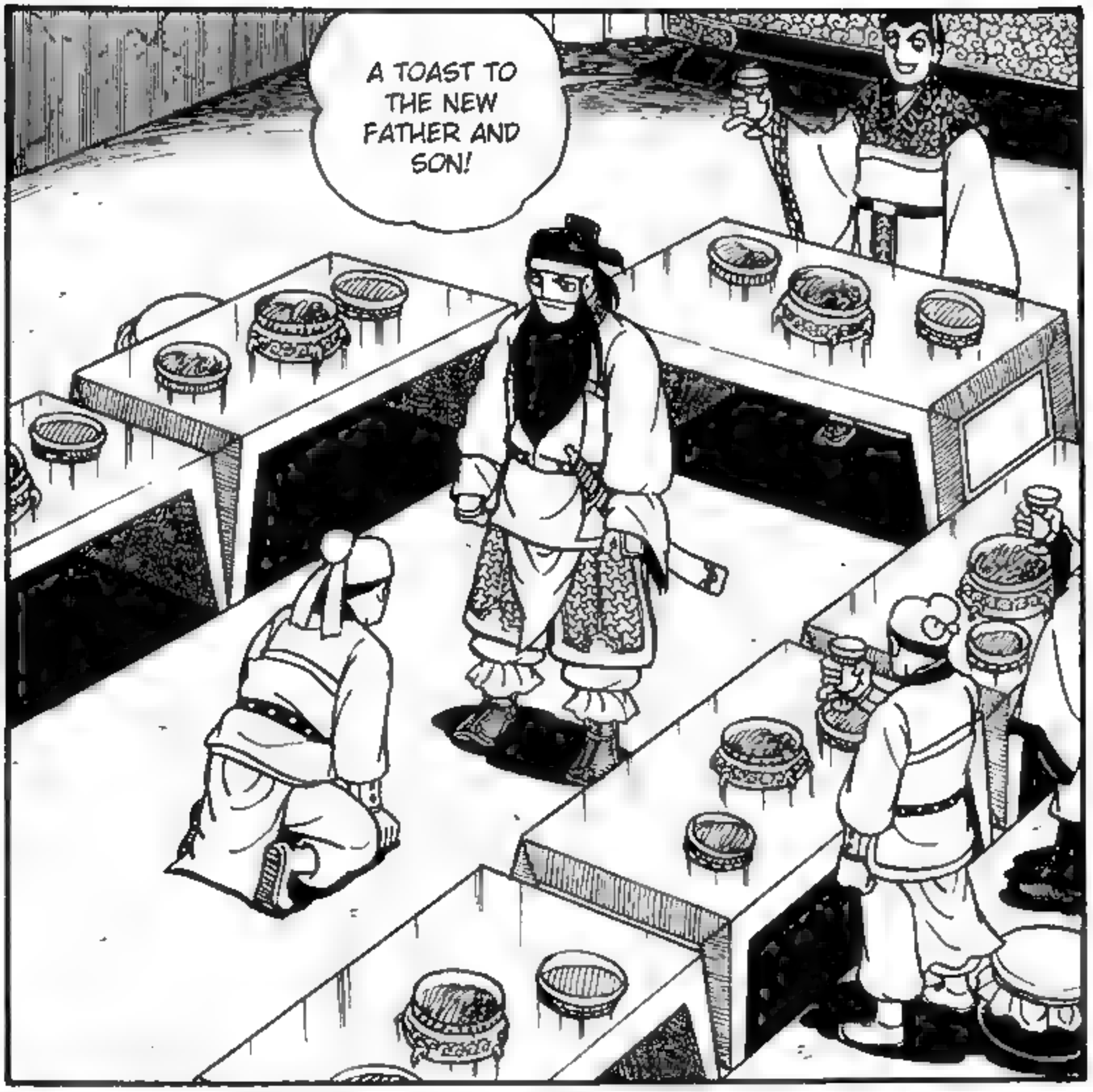
WHAT DO YOU SAY, GUAN DING?

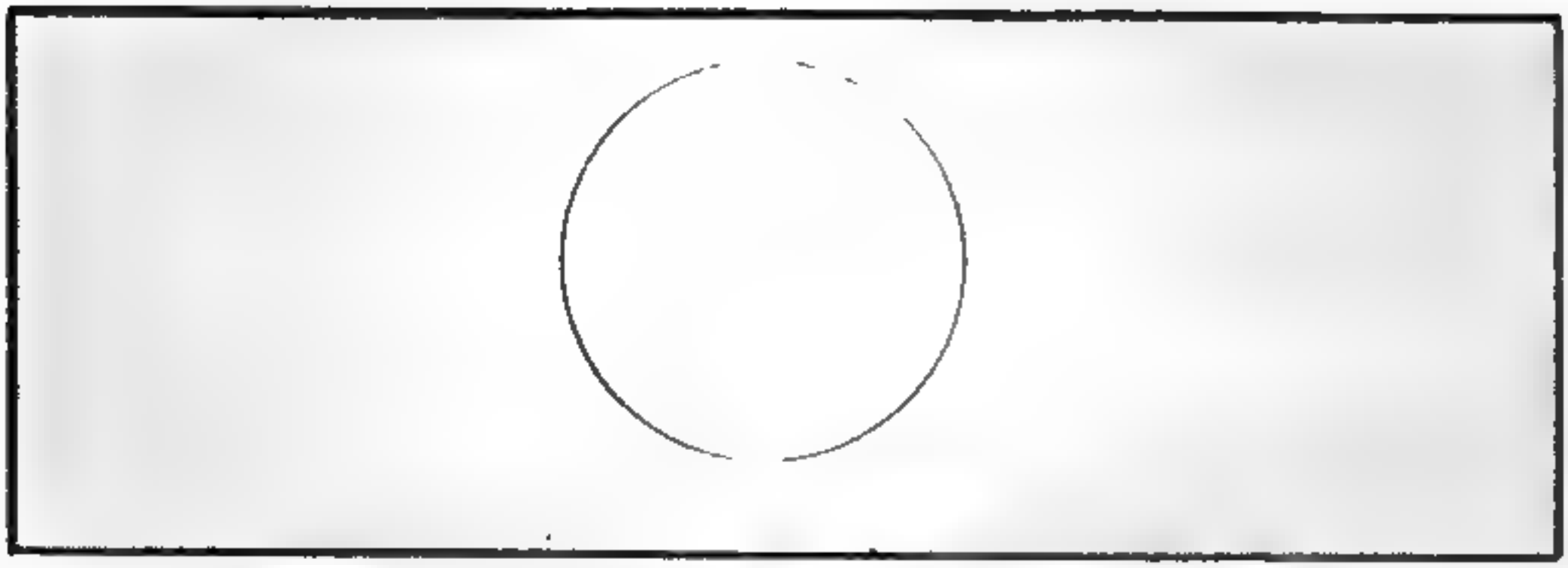
I HAVE NO PROBLEMS WITH THAT.

BUT I'M AFRAID I NEED MY ELDEST SON GUAN NENG TO TAKE OVER THE FAMILY FARM SO HOW ABOUT TAKING IN GUAN PING?

FROM TODAY FORTH, GUAN PING SHALL BE GUAN YU'S SON!

THEN IT'S SETTLED!


A TOAST TO THE NEW FATHER AND SON!



YES, BUT I'M AFRAID YUAN SHAO'S MEN MIGHT COME HERE ANY MOMENT IN PURSUIT.
IF ONLY YOU COULD STAY A LITTLE LONGER.

TAKE CARE.

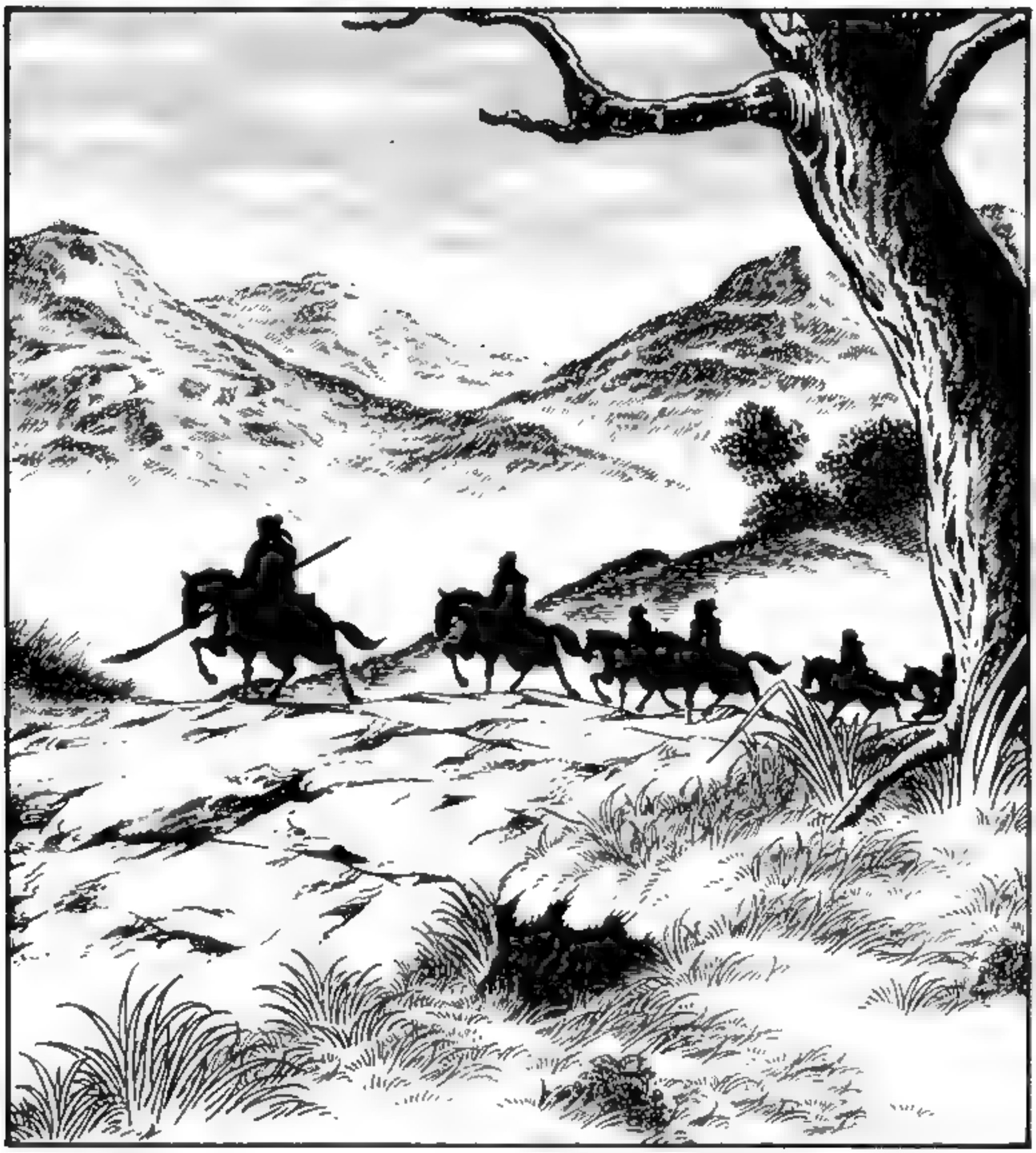
YOU TOO, FATHER.

YES, FATHER.

GUAN PING, MAKE SURE YOU DO NOT TARNISH THE GREAT GENERAL'S NAME. BE A BRAVE SON HE CAN BE PROUD OF.

NOT AT ALL, GENERAL.

FAREWELL, SIR. I THANK YOU FOR THE WARM WELCOME YOU'VE GIVEN ME.



FATHER, ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?

HMM?

I WAS SUPPOSED TO MEET UP WITH SOME PEOPLE WHO WISHED TO SERVE MY LORD AROUND HERE.

ZHOU CANG, WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE MATTER?.
AH, GENERAL!

AFTER MEETING UP WITH MY COMRADES, WE CAME ACROSS A STRANGE WANDERER.

HEY, YOU'RE IN MY WAY. MOVE IT!

DID YOU NOT HEAR ME!? WAKE UP!

WHAT!?

WALKING AROUND IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY AND DISTURBING NAPS... SEEMS LIKE YOU BANDITS HAVE GOTTEN WAY TOO COCKY BECAUSE THE HEAVENS HAVE BEEN PREOCCUPIED.

I SHALL PUNISH YOU IN HEAVEN'S STEAD.

HOW DARE I? HOW DARE YOU BANDITS MAKE INNOCENT PEASANTS SUFFER!

HOW DARE YOU...!

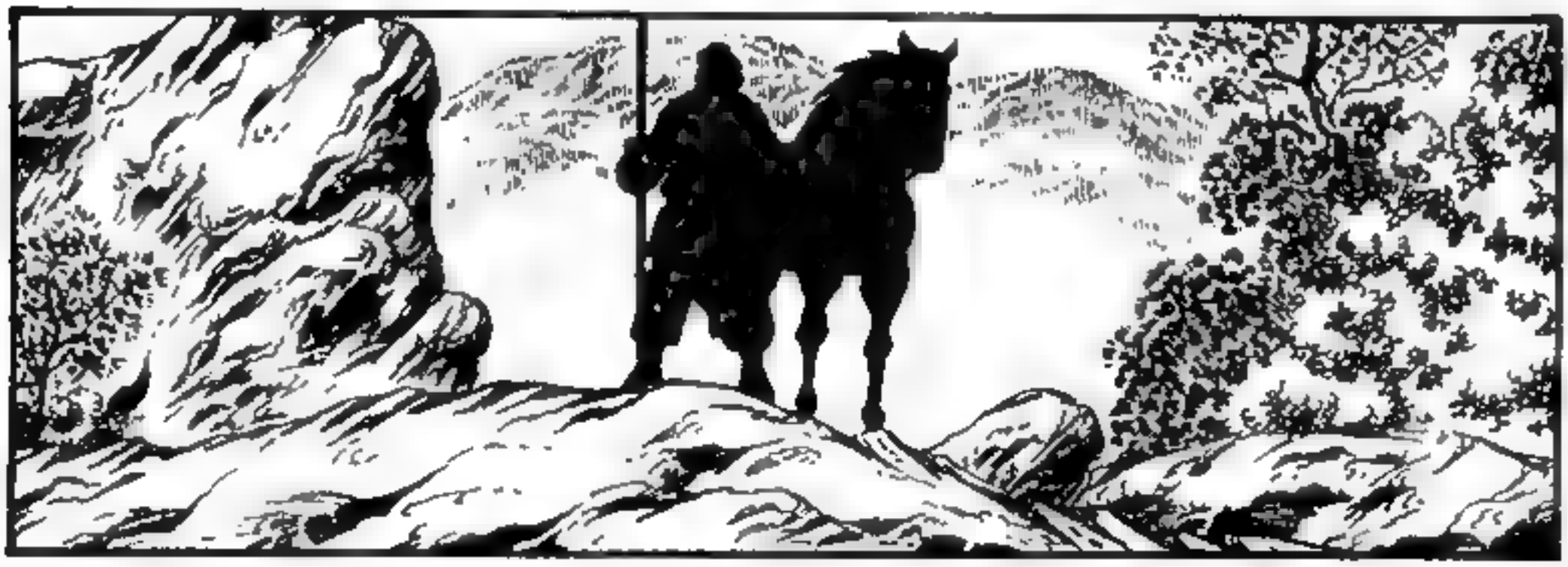
AHH!

I SEE.

IT'S EMBARRASING TO ADMIT, BUT HE WAS FAR TOO STRONG FOR ANY OF US TO HANDLE. WE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO ESCAPE, WHICH IS WHEN WE RAN INTO YOU, SIR.

IF HE'S REALLY THAT STRONG, THEN I WOULDN'T MIND HAVING A GO AT HIM MYSELF.

YES.
THIS WANDERER SOUNDS QUITE INTRIGUING.



AH!

AH!

THAT'S HIM! THAT'S THE MAN!

AREN'T YOU ZHAO YUN?

IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU AGAIN.

SIR LIU BEI AND GUAN YU!?

YES, I KNOW HIM QUITE WELL.

IS SIR ACQUAINTED WITH THIS MAN...?

WHEN GONGSUN ZAN'S ARMY WAS ROUTED BY YUAN SHAO'S ARMY...

IT WAS BACK WHEN GONGSUN ZAN AND YUAN SHAO WERE FIGHTING OVER JIZHOU.

ZHAO ZILONG SAVED GONGSUN ZAN FROM CERTAIN DEATH AND DROVE BACK YUAN SHAO'S FORCES.

AND THAT'S WHEN A MAN NAMED ZHAO YUN ZILONG APPEARED.

AFTER THAT, WE'VE FOUGHT TOGETHER ON BATTLEFIELDS AND SHARED DRINKS.

HAHAHA, EVEN IF YOU ATTACK HIM ALL AT ONCE, THERE'S NOT A CHANCE YOU COULD TAKE HIM ON.

I... I HAD NO IDEA.

NO, I WAS THINKING OF DOING SO, BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO FIND A SUITABLE LORD. AND SO, I'VE BEEN LIVING AS A WANDERER EVER SINCE.

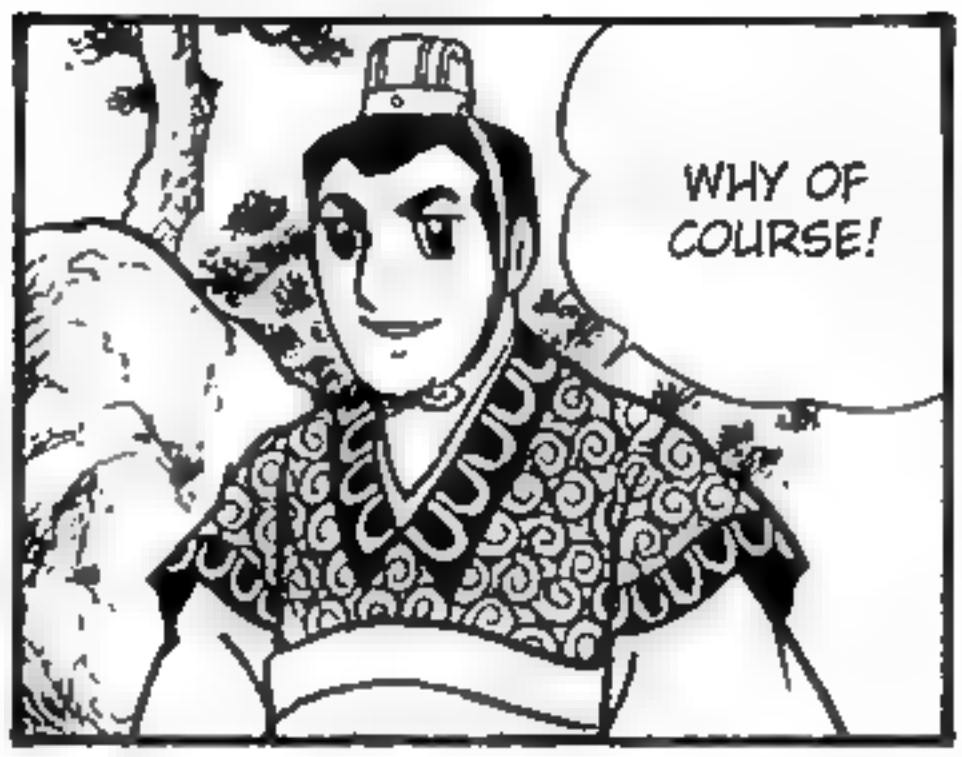
BUT IT'S STRANGE TO FIND YOU HERE. I HAD HEARD YOU WERE UNDER SOMEONE'S SERVICE AFTER GONGSUN ZAN'S DEATH.

WELL THAT'S NO MERE RUMOUR. SO YOU WERE PLANNING ON COMING TO US?

I ACTUALLY CAME THIS WAY BECAUSE I HEARD A RUMOUR THAT ZHANG FEI WAS IN GUCHENG.

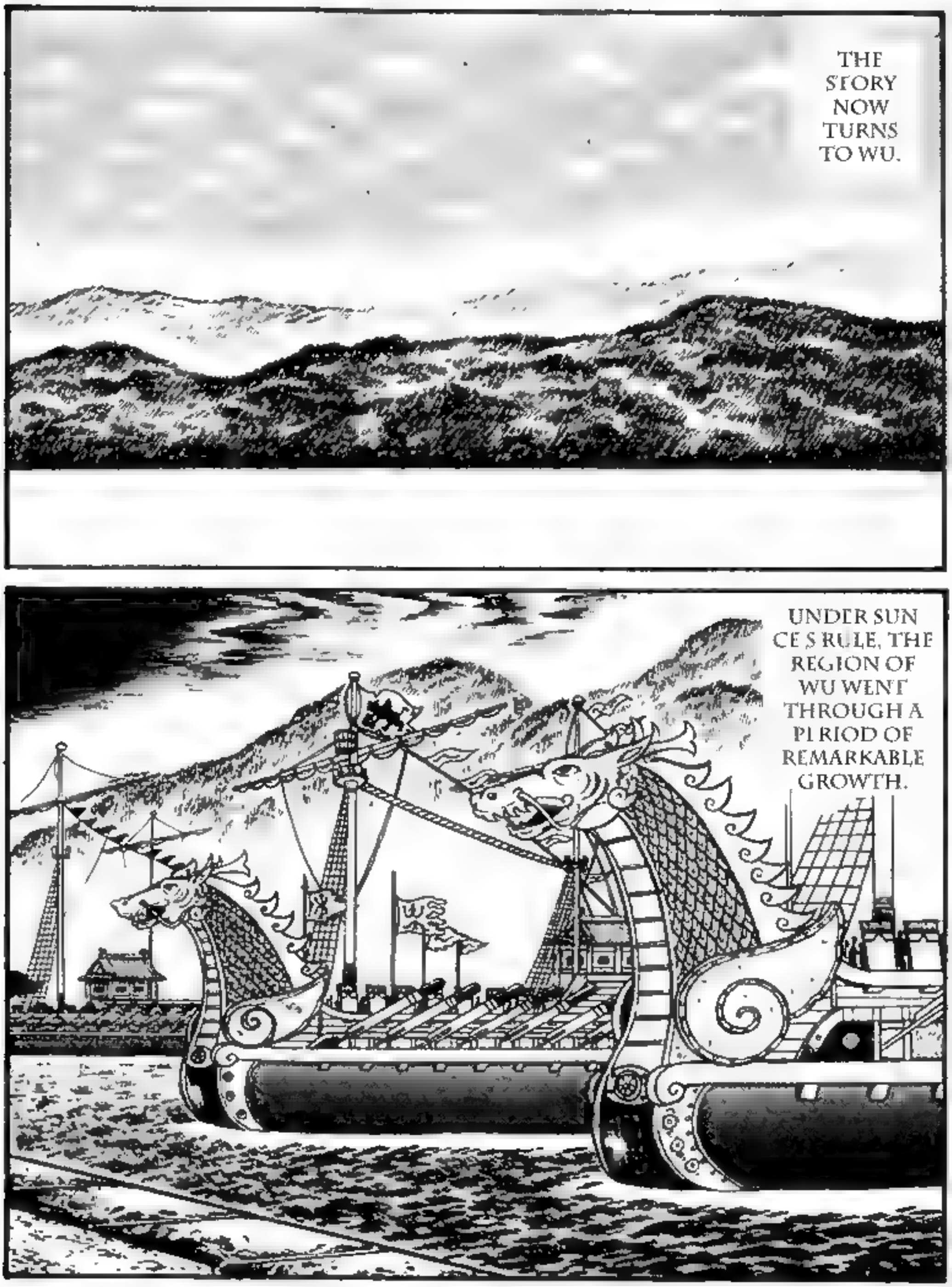
PLEASE ACCEPT THIS WANDERING WARRIOR'S REQUEST.

YES, I'VE ALWAYS LONGED TO SERVE SOMEONE LIKE SIR LIU BEI. AND SO I MUST ASK, WILL YOU TAKE ME IN, SIR?



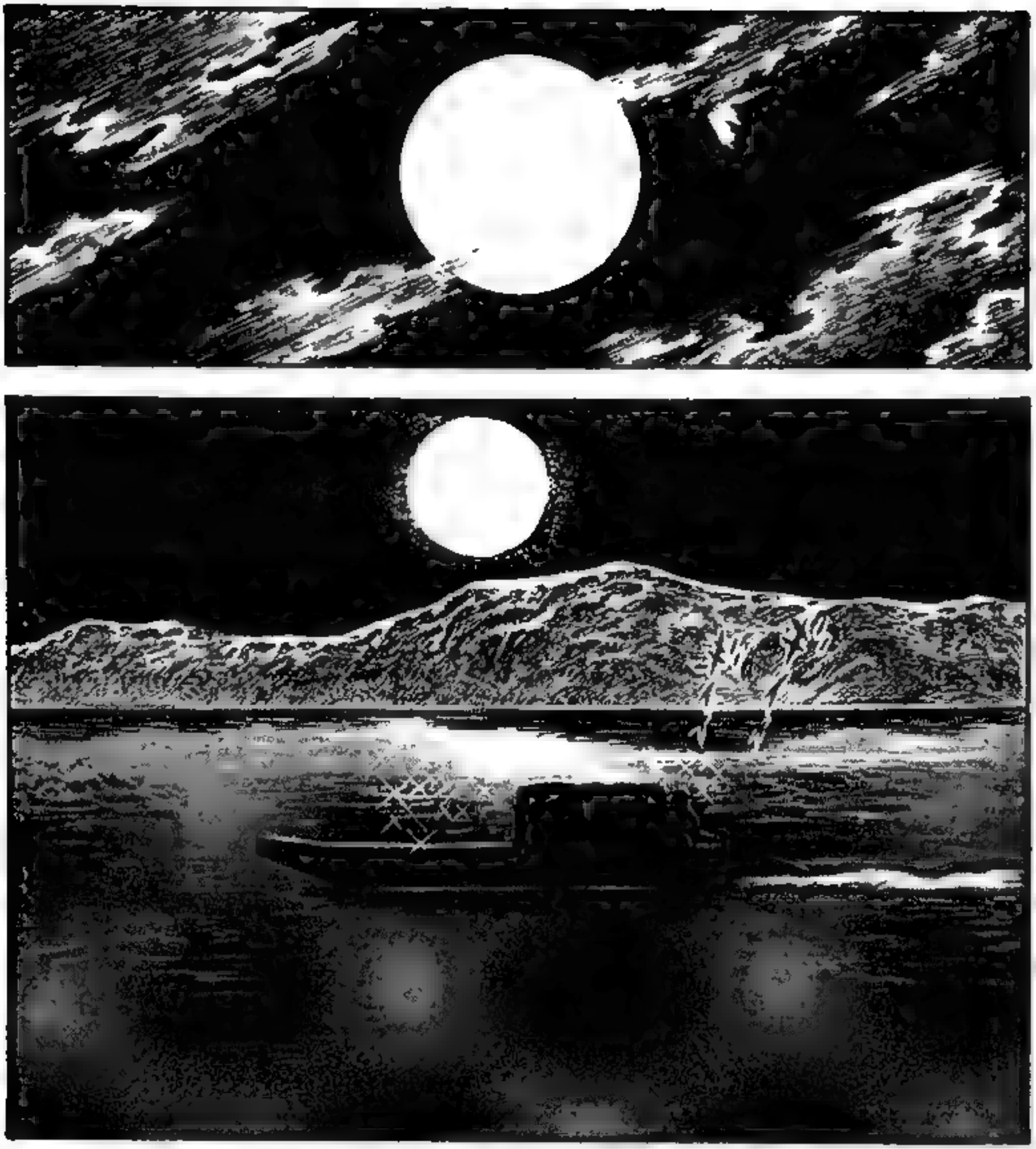
AND SO, ZHAO YUN ENTERED LIU BEI'S SERVICE. AT LAST, IT WAS TIME FOR HEROES OF THE LANDS TO BEGIN GATHERING UNDER LIU BEI.

THE THREE SERVANTS' REVENGE



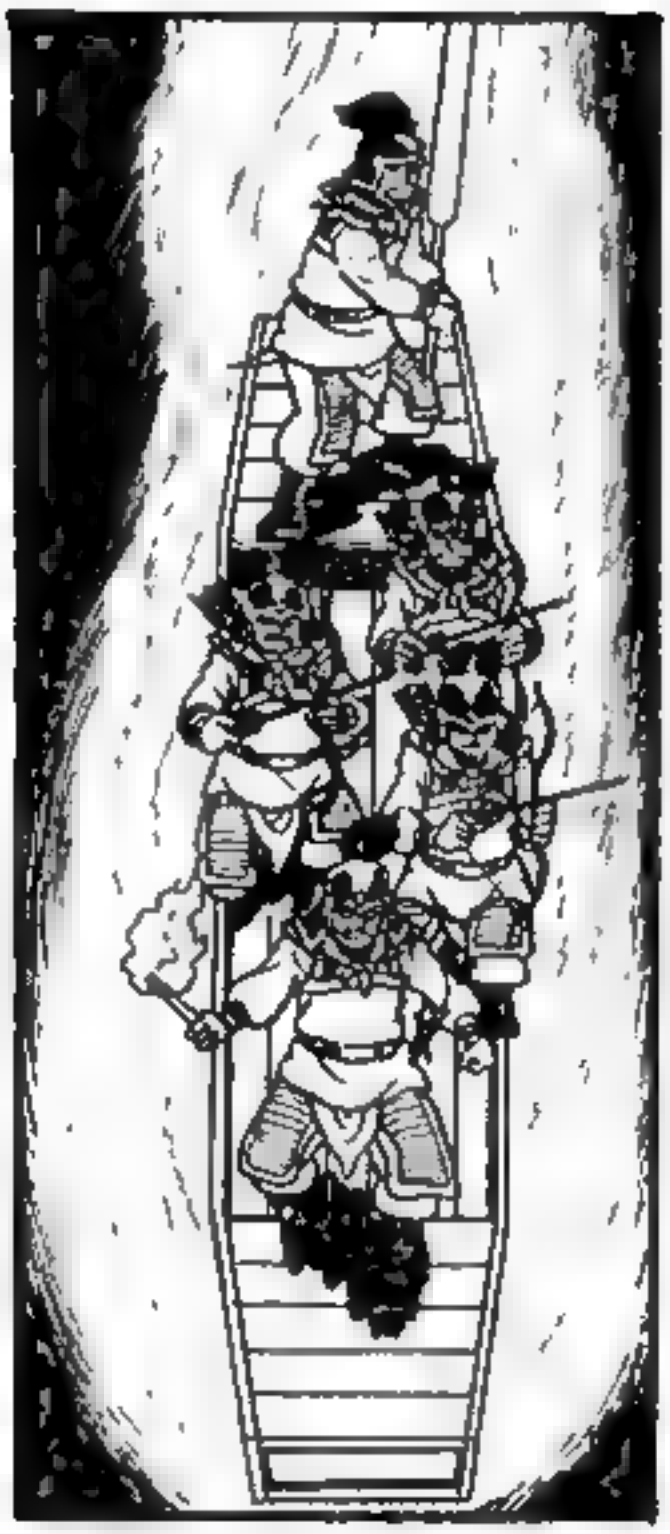
OCCUPYING THE RICH FERTILE LANDS OF THE YANGTZE RIVER DELTA, WU'S ENORMOUS AGRICULTURAL STRENGTH WAS NOT TO BE UNDERESTIMATED.

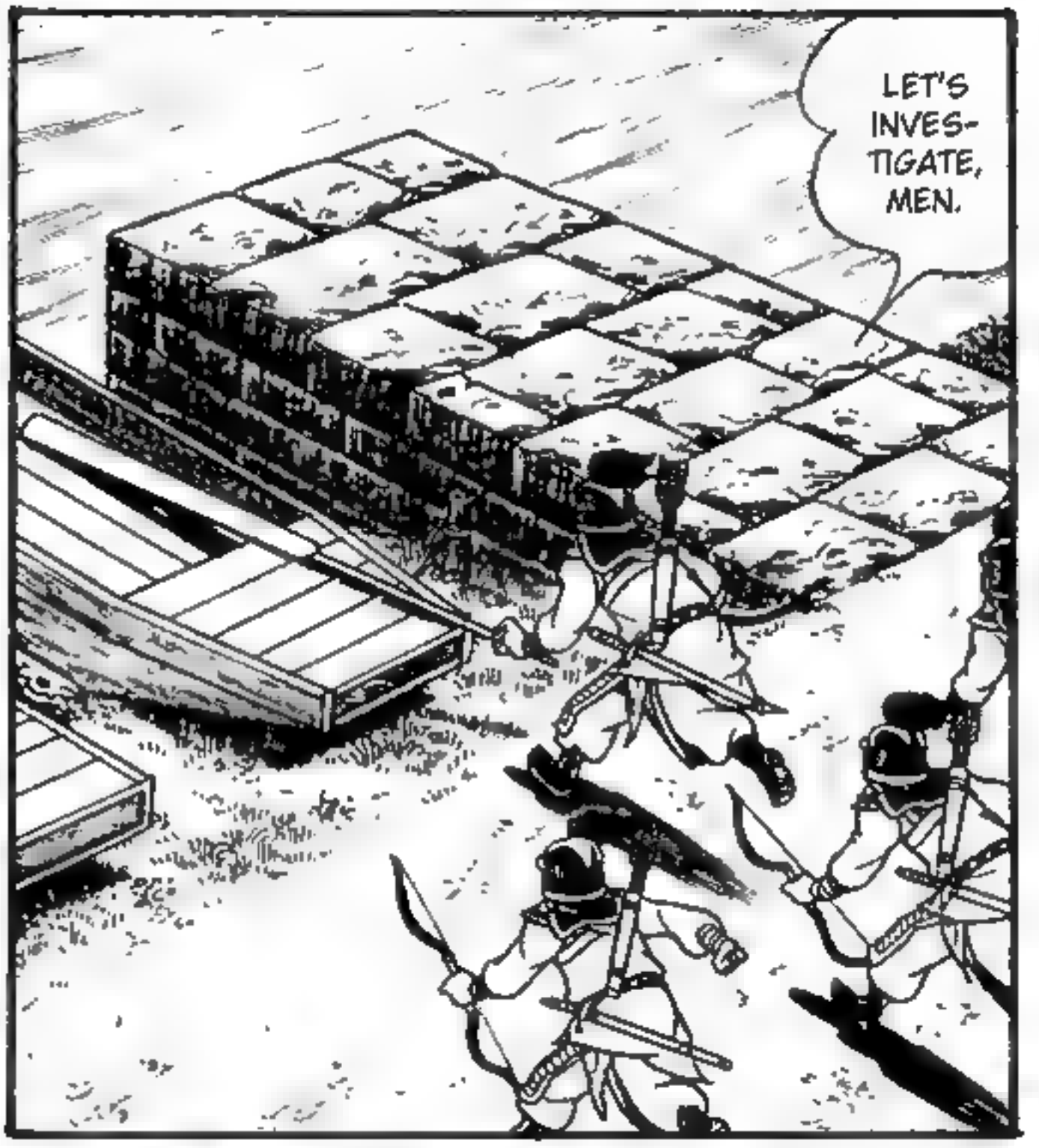
EVEN CAO CAO COULD NOT IGNORE SUCH STRENGTH, AND THUS THE DIVISIVE SECRET PLOTS TO CONTAIN WU



HEY THERE'S A SHIP CROSSING THE RIVER AT THIS LATE IN THE NIGHT!

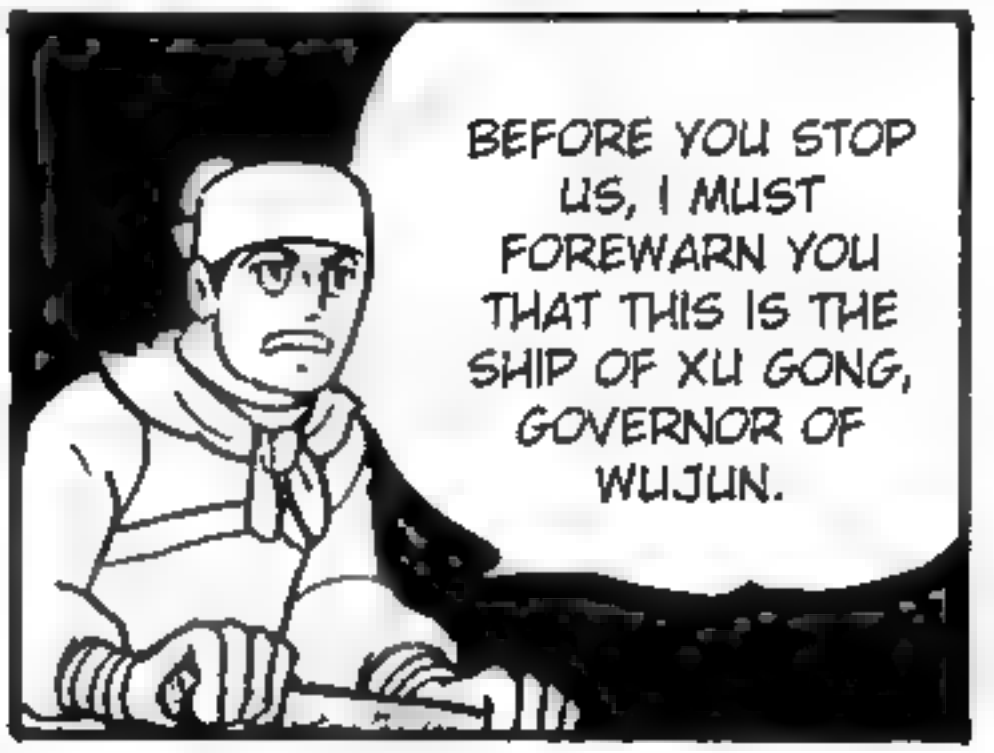
HM?




LET'S INVES-TIGATE, MEN.

STOP RIGHT THERE! WE ARE THE RIVER PATROL GUARDS!

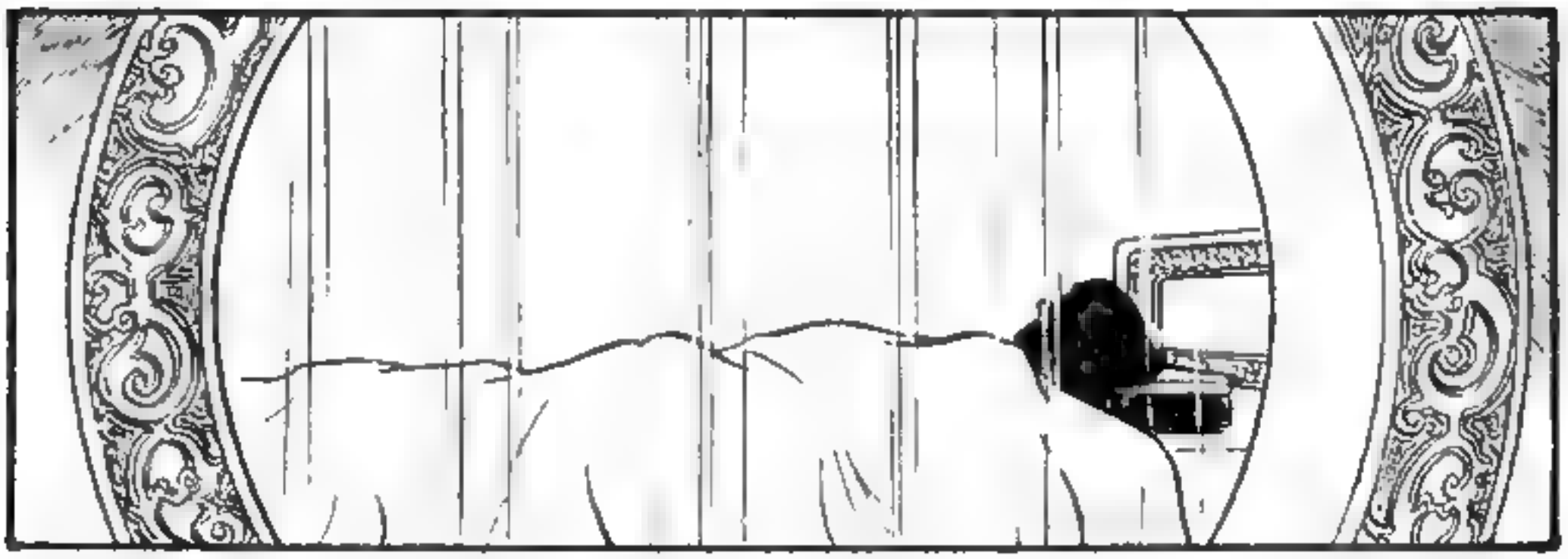
WUJUN'S GOVERNOR, XU GONG...?


BEFORE YOU STOP US, I MUST FOREWARN YOU THAT THIS IS THE SHIP OF XU GONG, GOVERNOR OF WUJUN.

I'M AFRAID WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE YOU IN FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION.

BUT WHY MUST WUJUN'S GOVERNOR SEND A BOAT THIS LATE IN THE NIGHT?

COME WITH US.



MY LORD, ARE YOU STILL AWAKE?

WUJUN'S GOVERNOR, XU GONG, HAS BEEN FOUND SECRETLY COMMUNICATING WITH CAO CAO.

WHAT!?

I APOLOGIZE FOR THE INTRUSION BUT IT'S AN EMERGENCY, MY LORD.

WHAT IS IT AT THIS LATE HOUR?

JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO, THE RIVER PATROL GUARDS APPREHENDED A SUSPICIOUS SHIP. UPON FURTHER INVESTIGATION, THIS LETTER WAS FOUND ON THE SHIP.

"SUN CE IS BUILDING HIS ARMY STRONGER THAN EVER BEFORE. IT SHAN'T BE LONG BEFORE HE ATTACKS XUCHANG. THIS THREAT MUST BE STOPPED BEFORE IT GROWS ANY MORE OUT OF CONTROL."

YES, MY LORD.

ARREST XU GONG AND HIS ENTIRE FAMILY!

WHY THAT BACK-STABBING ...!

SUN CE S WRATH WAS FEARSOME AT ONCE, SOLDIERS WERE SENT TO XU GONG S RESIDENCES.

?

EVERY LAST MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD IN SIGHT

WHERE THEY SLAUGHTERED.

BUT AMIDST THIS CHAOS, 3 PEOPLE ALONE MANAGED TO ESCAPE.

THEY WERE HOMELESS WANDERERS WHO, AFTER RECEIVING XU GONG'S KIND GRACE, DECIDED TO BECOME HIS RETAINERS

IF WE ARE MEN, THEN WE MUST AVENGE THE DEATH OF OUR SAVIOUR AND LORD, XU GONG.

DAMN IT, JUST HOW THE HELL CAN I ENJOY MY DRINK AFTER A THING LIKE THAT!?

BUT THEN THE QUESTION IS HOW. GETTING INSIDE HIS CASTLE ALONE WILL BE TOUGH ENOUGH, JUST HOW'RE WE SUPPOSED TO APPROACH HIM?

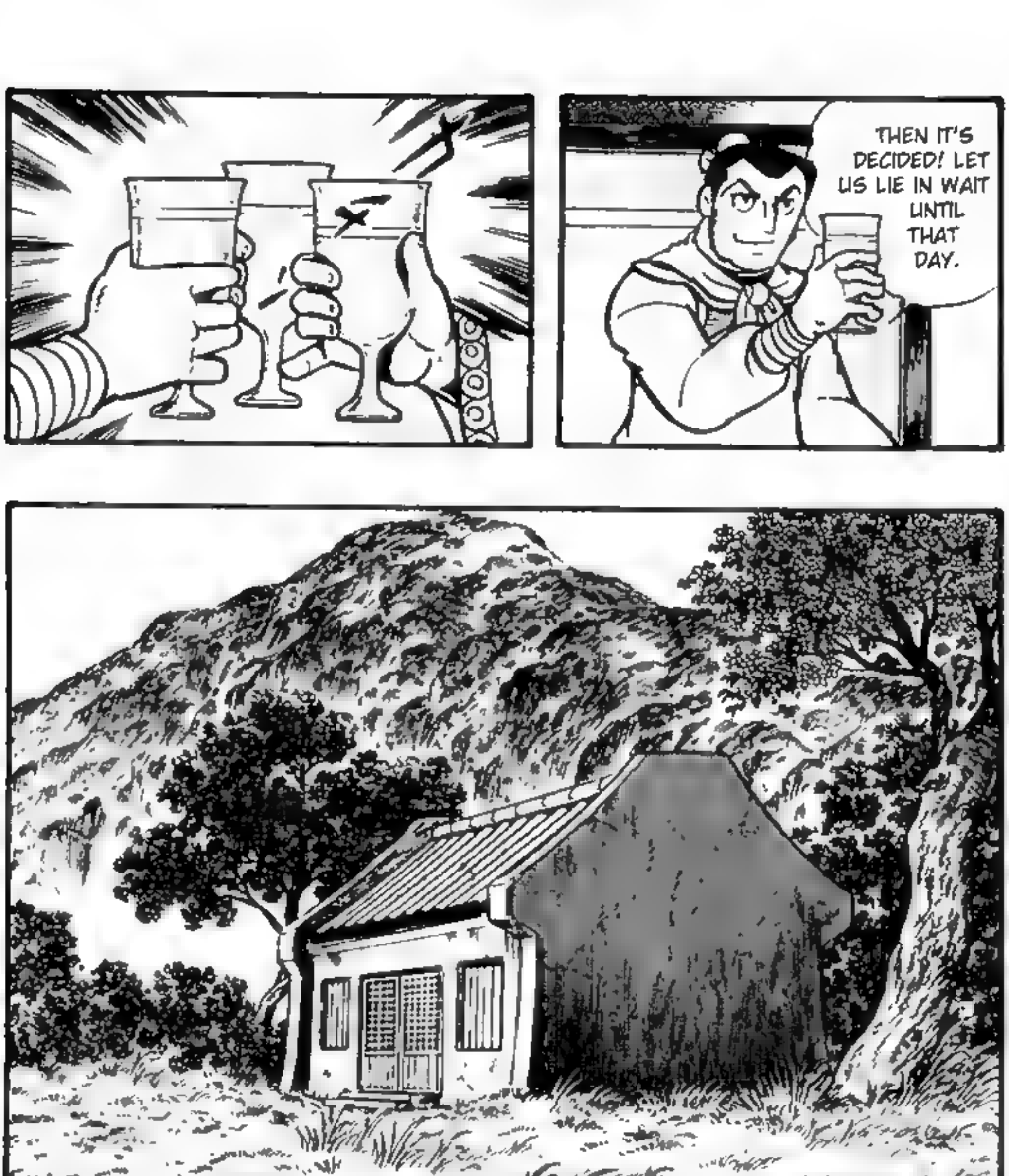
YES.

YOU MEAN... ASSASSINATE SUN CE?

I SEE! THEN EVEN THE 3 OF US ALONE SHOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE IT.

I'VE HEARD THAT SUN CE GOES OUT HUNTING OFTEN. THAT'S WHEN WE'LL STRIKE.

THEN IT'S DECIDED! LET US LIE IN WAIT UNTIL THAT DAY.



HE IS?

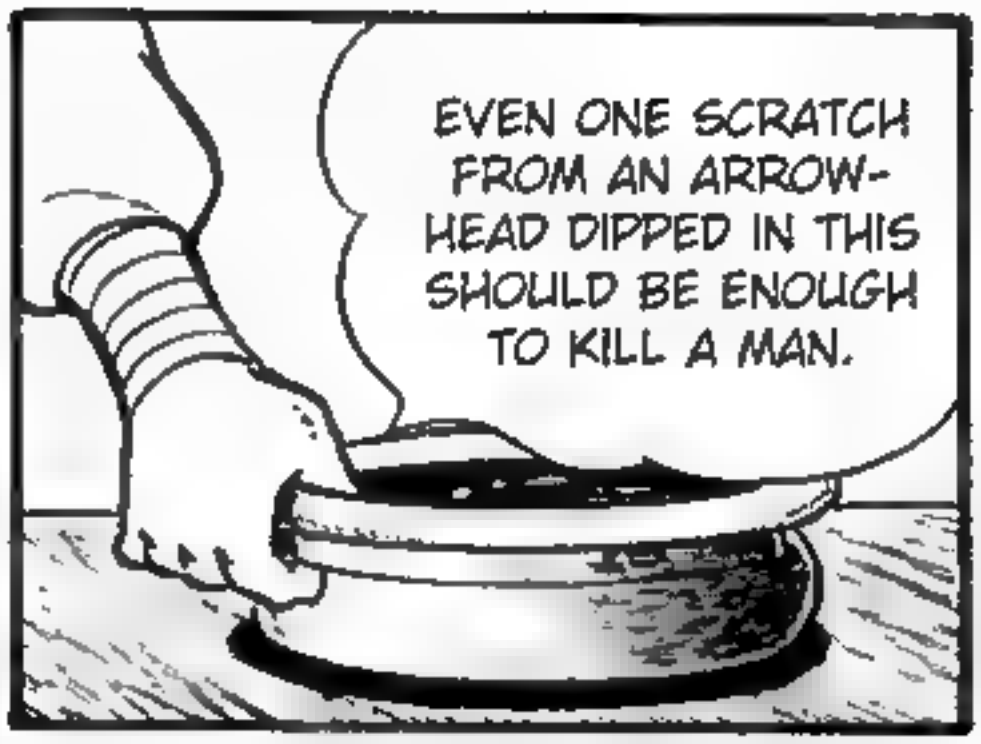
SUN CE'S APPARENTLY GOING OUT HUNTING TOMORROW!

OF COURSE.

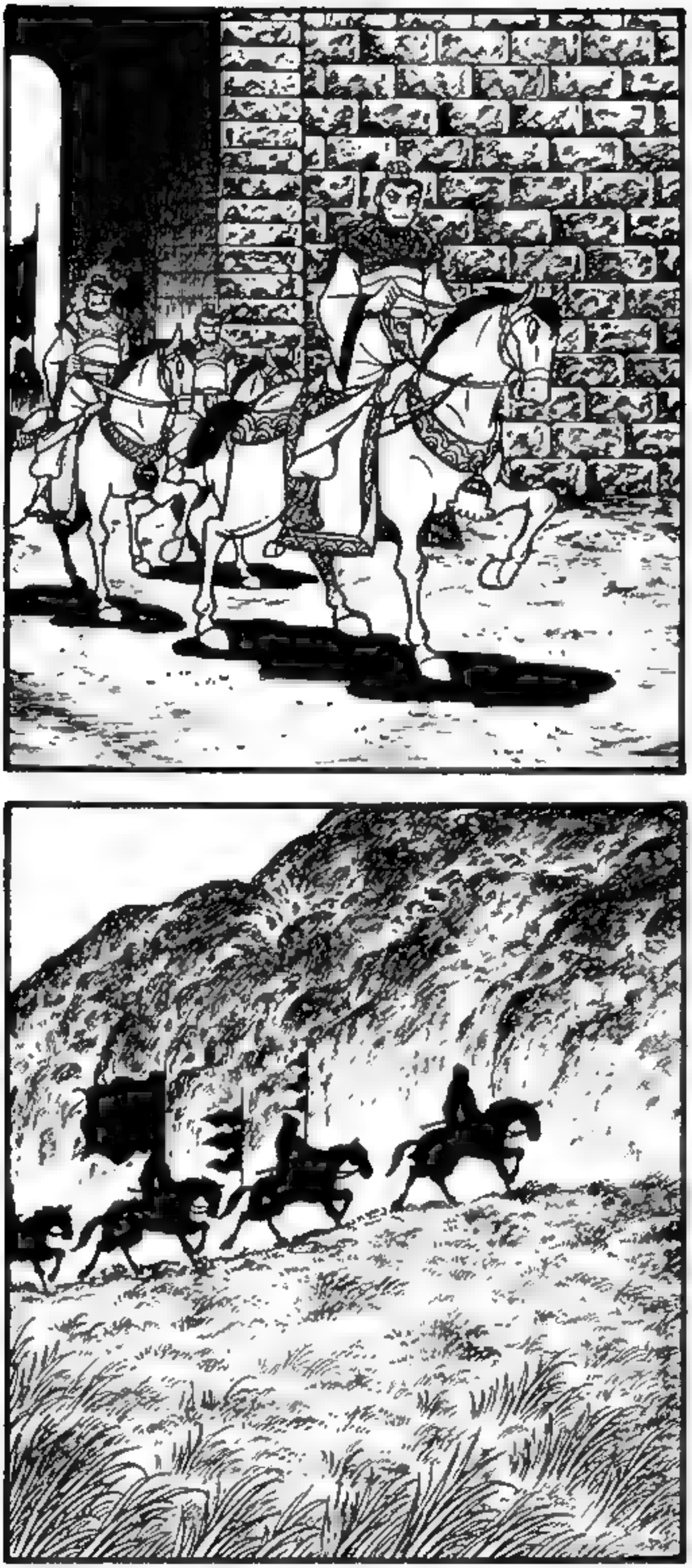
HAVE YOU PREPARED THE STUFF?

GOOD, OUR CHANCE IS FINALLY HERE.

GOOD. NOW LET'S GO AND LIE IN WAIT ON THE MOUNTAIN UNTIL TOMORROW.


EVEN ONE SCRATCH FROM AN ARROW-HEAD DIPPED IN THIS SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO KILL A MAN.

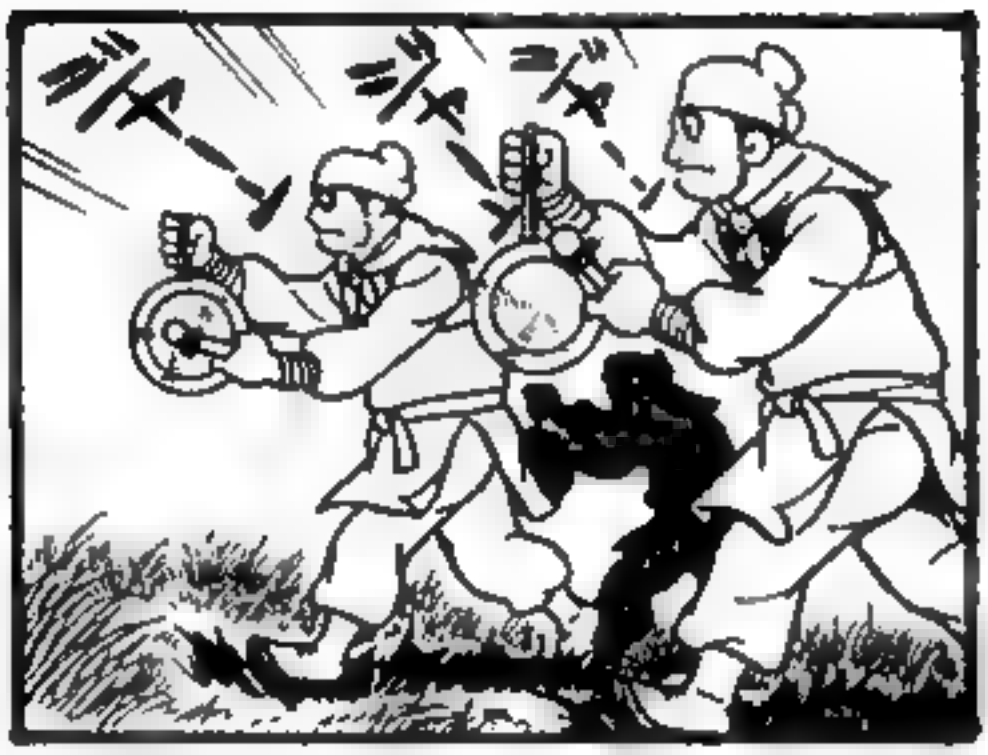
LET'S GO.



MAY THE HEAVENS BE ON OUR SIDE.

THAT'S HIM.

CHASE OUT THE GAME FROM THEIR HIDING PLACES!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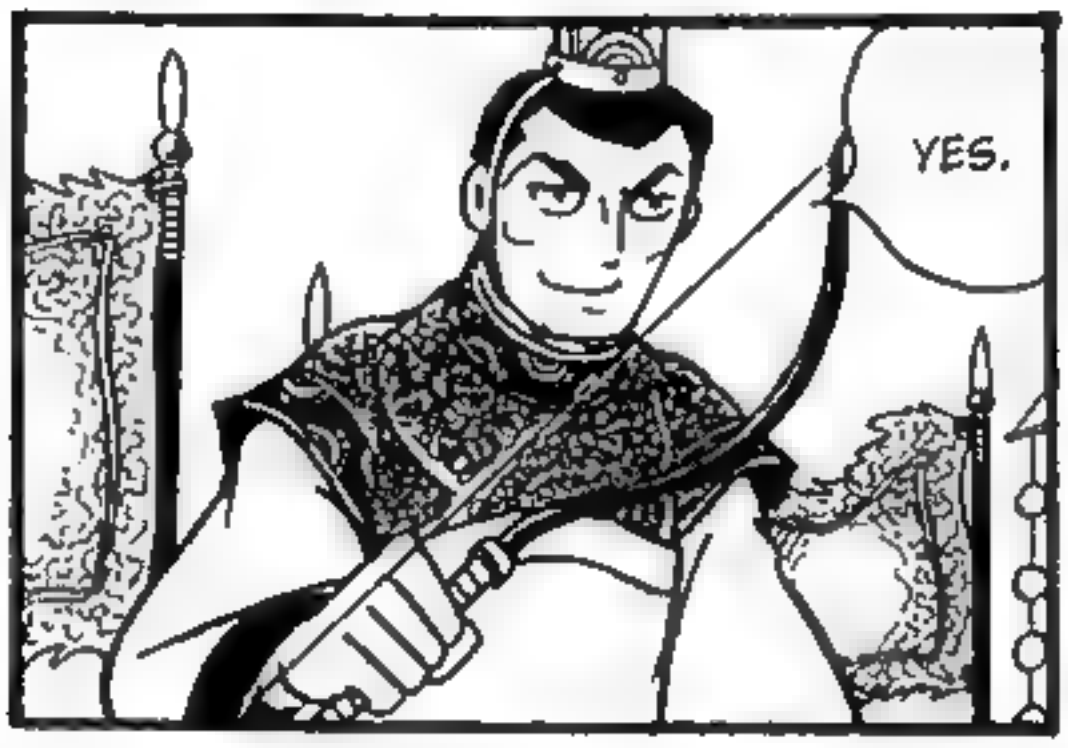
YES.

MY LORD, IT'S A DEER!

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HAHA! A NICE SHOT, IF I MAY SAY SO MYSELF!

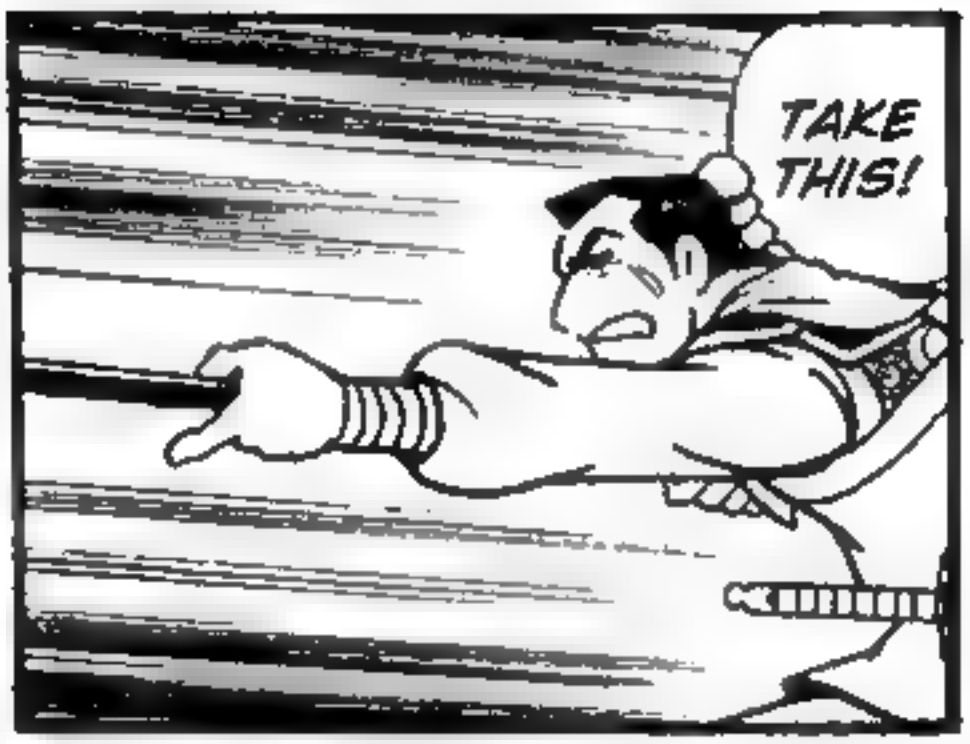
UGH!

ピュッ

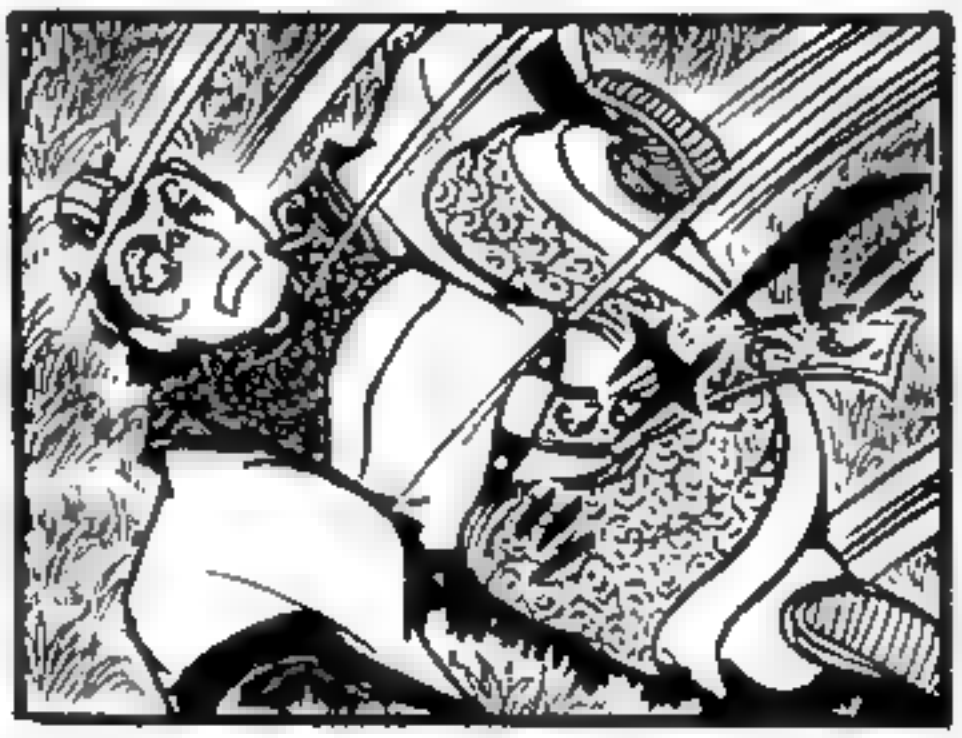
WHO DARES SHOOT ME!?

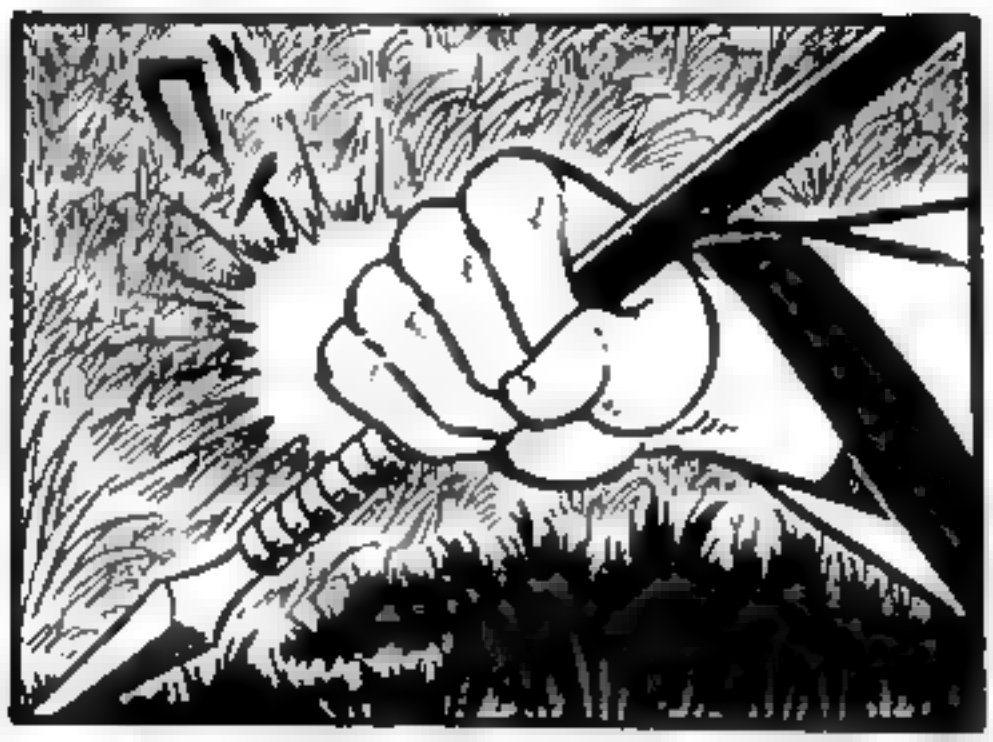
BAST-
ARDS...!

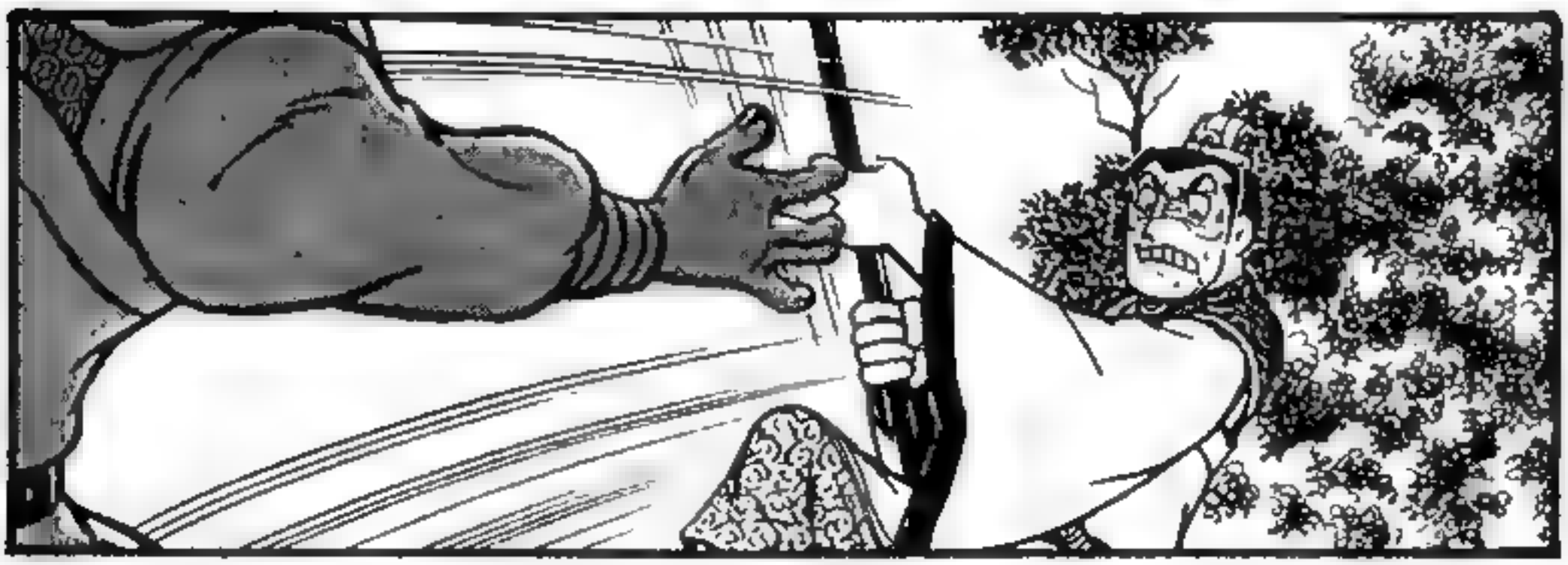
THIS IS FOR XU GONG!

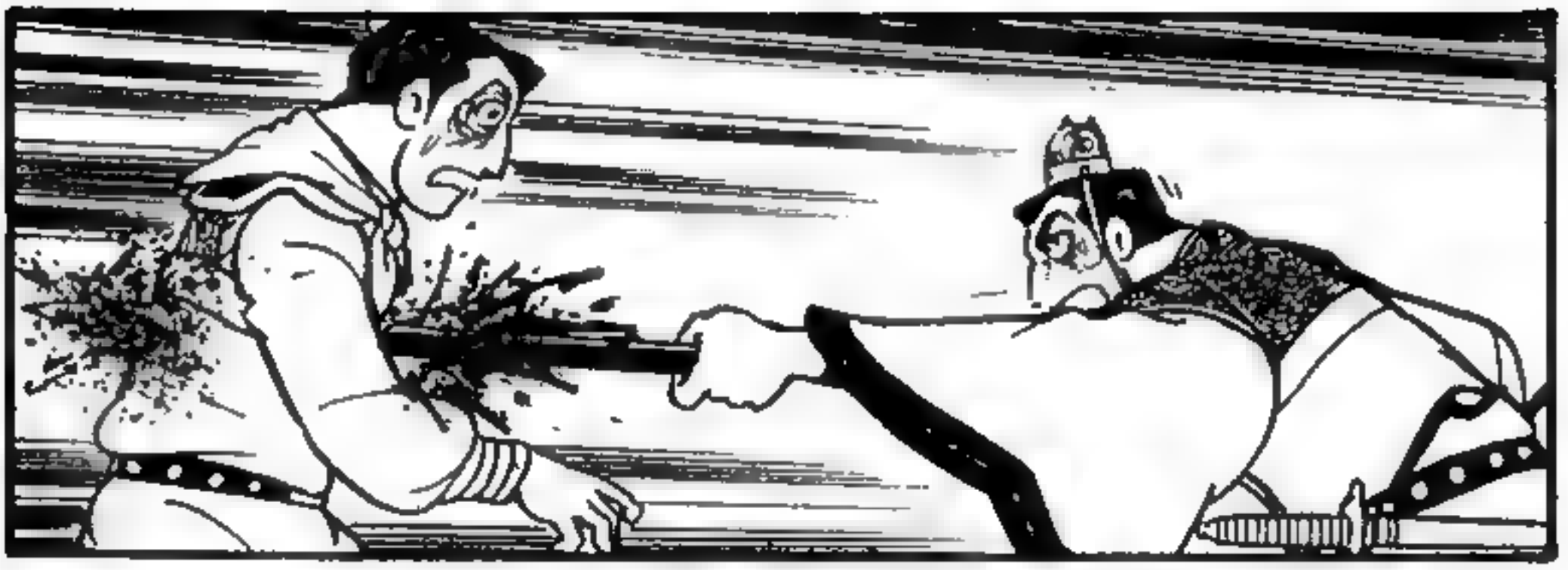

TAKE THIS!

DIE!



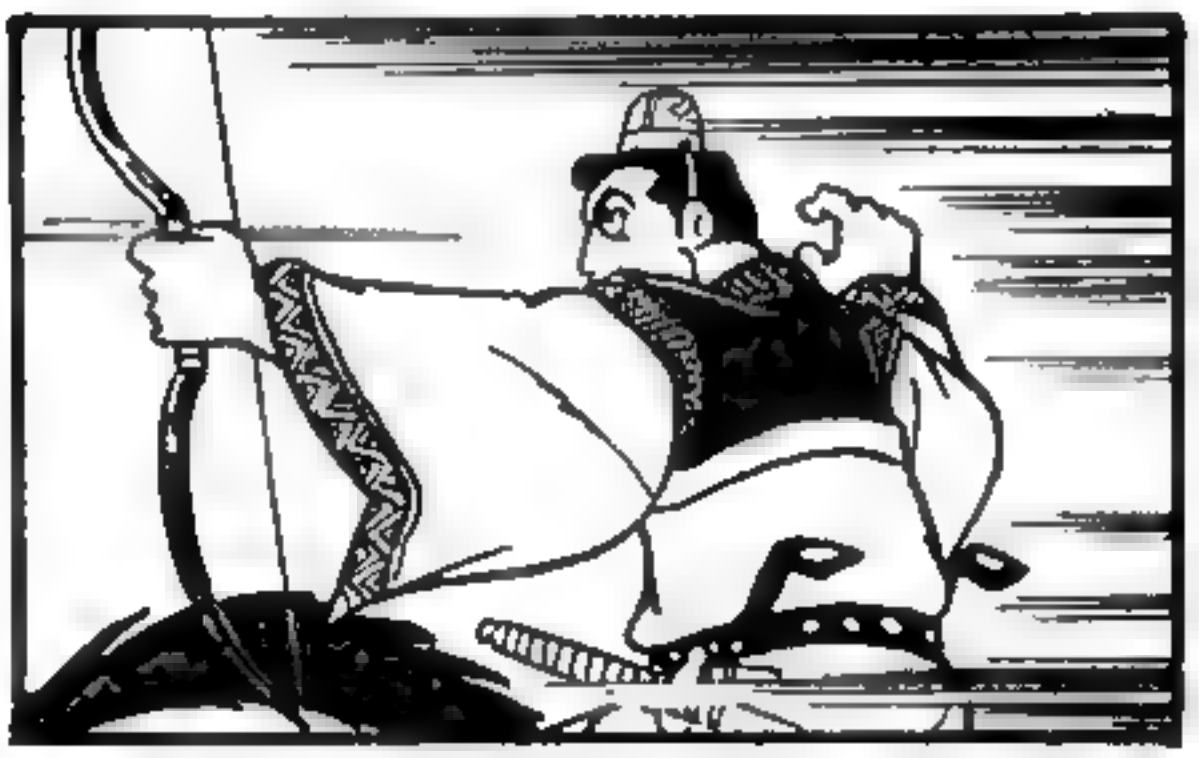






MY LORD!

MY LORD!



ARE YOU ALRIGHT, MY LORD!?
BUNCH OF WRETCHED WEAKLINGS!
QUICKLY! WE MUST ESCORT OUR LORD BACK TO THE CASTLE!

I'M AFRAID HE'S GRAVELY INJURED. THE ASSASSINS' ARROWHEADS AND SPEAR TIPS WERE ALL COATED WITH POISON. I CAN ONLY PRAY THAT THE POISON HASN'T PENETRATED HIS BODY TOO DEEPLY.

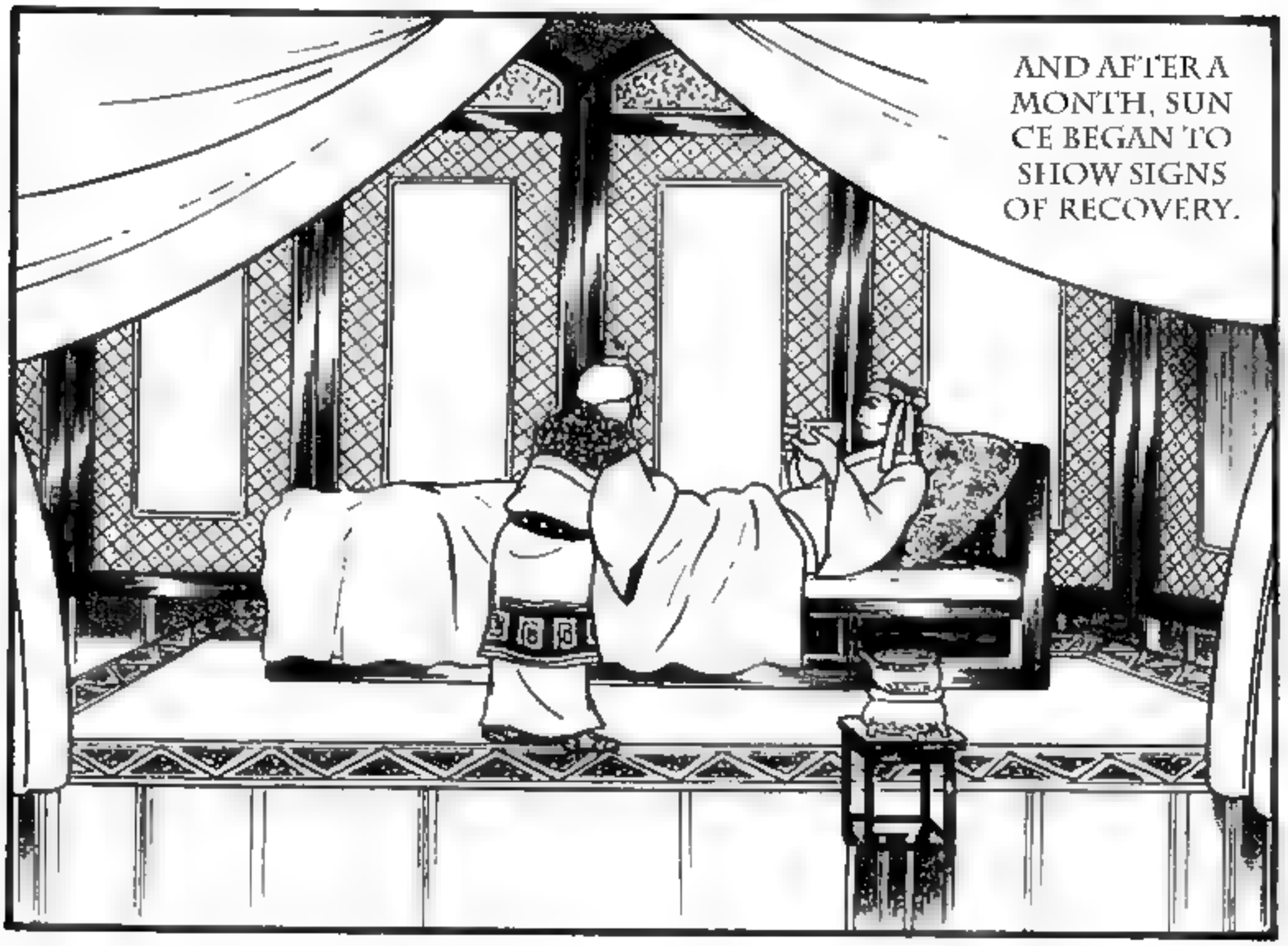
HOW IS OUR LORD'S CONDITION?

I SHALL DO ALL THAT I CAN.

DR. HUA TUO! BUT YOU'RE THE BEST PHYSICIAN IN ALL OF WU. SURELY YOU CAN SAVE OUR LORD. PLEASE, WE BEG OF YOU.

BUT THE GREAT PHYSICIAN HUA TUO'S MEDICINE BEGAN TO SHOW ITS EFFECT.

FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS, SUN CE WAVERED BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH


AND AFTER A MONTH, SUN CE BEGAN TO SHOW SIGNS OF RECOVERY.

QUITE GOOD, AS A MATTER OF FACT.

HOW IS MY LORD FEELING TODAY?

THAT IS GREAT NEWS INDEED. BY THE WAY, ZHANG HONG HAS JUST RETURNED FROM XUCHANG. WOULD MY LORD LIKE TO SPEAK WITH HIM NOW?

YES, SEND HIM IN HERE.

SO WHAT HAS THAT CAO CAO BEEN SAYING ABOUT ME?

HE SAYS HE'D RATHER NOT PICK A FIGHT WITH A MERE LION CUB.

COME CLOSER SO I CAN SPEAK WITH YOU MORE EASILY, ZHANG HONG.

GOOD DAY, MY LORD.

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

ME, A LION CUB?

ANYTHING ELSE?

BUT YOU KNOW, A LION CUB WON'T STAY A CUB FOREVER. THERE WILL COME A TIME WHEN HE'LL GROW TO BECOME A MIGHTY LION.

SUCCEEDING WHEN YOUNG ONLY LEADS TO ARROGANCE, WHICH IN TURN, LEADS TO MISTAKES. AND THESE MISTAKES MAY CAUSE MY LORD'S DEATH AT THE HANDS OF SOME UNKNOWN, INSIGNIFICANT PERSON.

WELL... THE ADVISOR GUO JIA APPARENTLY TOLD CAO CAO THAT... MY LORD MAY HAVE BUILT A POWERFUL ARMY, BUT HE IS STILL A YOUNG BRAT, UNWISE TO THE WAYS OF THE WORLD.

UNFORGIVABLE!

WHAT!?

MY LORD IS OVERREACTING AT A MERE RUMOUR! PLEASE CALM DOWN FOR THE SAKE OF WU AND ITS PEOPLE.

P-PLEASE CALM DOWN, MY LORD!

I NEEDN'T EVEN WAIT FOR MY BODY TO RECOVER! I SHALL STORM XUCHANG AND TEACH THOSE ARROGANT FOOLS A LESSON!

THAT CAO CAO...

FINE...

MY LORD'S WELL BEING COMES FIRST AND FOREMOST SO PLEASE, LIE BACK DOWN.

YUAN SHAO'S MESSEN-GER?

EXCUSE ME SIRS, BUT YUAN SHAO'S MESSENGER FROM HEBEI HAS ARRIVED JUST NOW.

NO, I'LL BE FINE.

PLEASE DON'T PUSH YOURSELF, MY LORD.

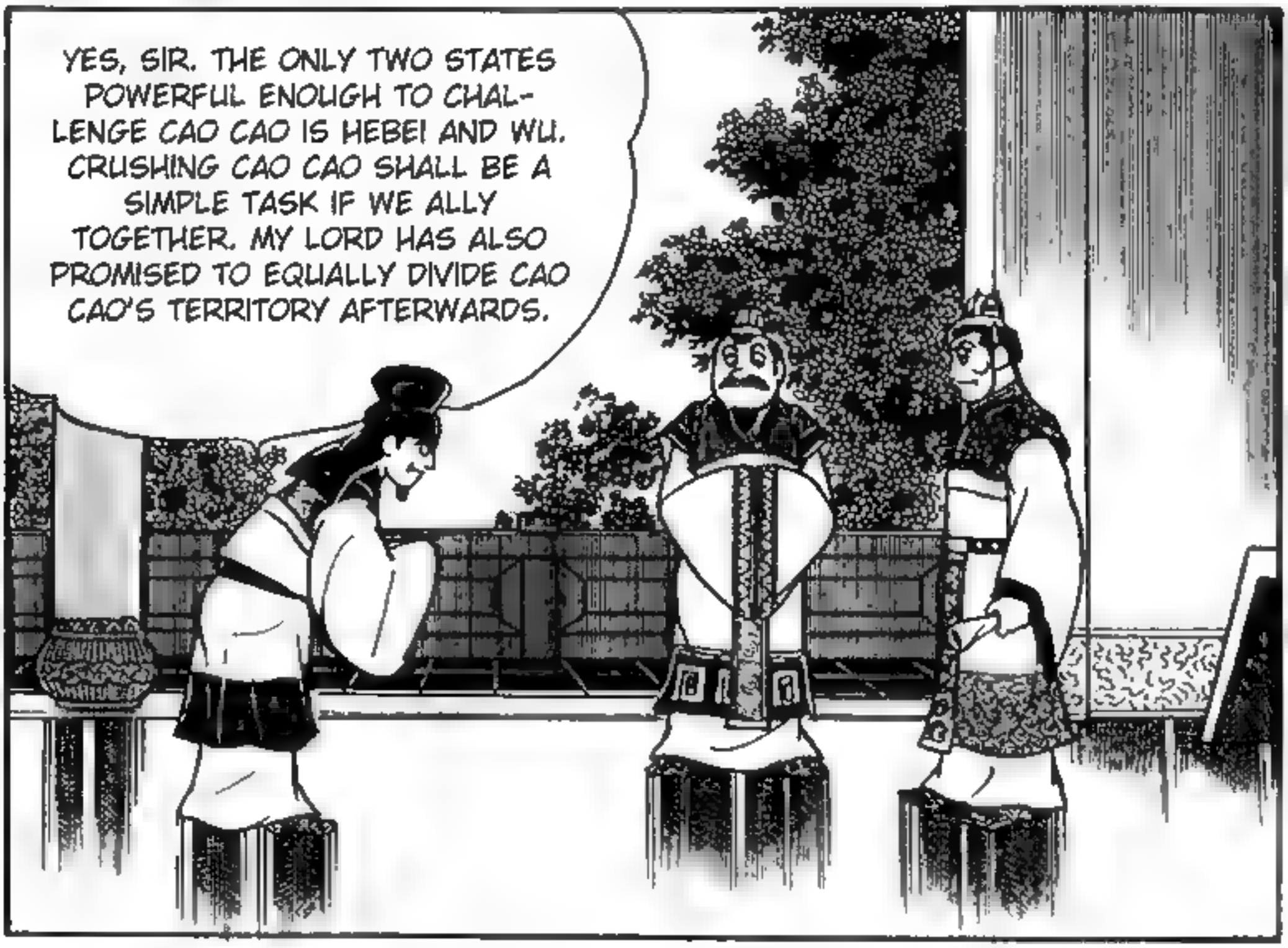
IF IT WERE ANY OTHER PERSON, I'D LIE IN MY BED BUT THIS IS YUAN SHAO. I MUST MEET WITH HIS MESSENGER.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING THE LONG JOURNEY FROM HEBEI.

MY LORD HAS ASKED ME TO GIVE SIR THIS LETTER...

SO WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE TODAY?

AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN HIM AND I ...!?


YES, SIR. THE ONLY TWO STATES POWERFUL ENOUGH TO CHALLENGE CAO CAO IS HEBEI AND WU. CRUSHING CAO CAO SHALL BE A SIMPLE TASK IF WE ALLY TOGETHER. MY LORD HAS ALSO PROMISED TO EQUALLY DIVIDE CAO CAO'S TERRITORY AFTERWARDS.

I WAS GROWING IRRITATED WITH CAO CAO AS WELL.

YOU'VE COME AT A GOOD TIME.

INDEED. WITH YUAN SHAO AND I WORKING TOGETHER, THERE IS NOTHING TO FEAR.

YES, MY LORD.

PREPARE A LAVISH BANQUET IN HONOUR OF THIS JOYOUS NEWS!

EVEN BRINGING DOWN CAO CAO SHALL BE A MATTER OF TIME.

CERTAINLY, AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN OUR TWO STATES WILL BE OF GREAT BENEFIT.

TO HEBEI!

TO WU!

YES, MY LORD YUAN SHAO WILL BE PLEASED BY WU'S RESPONSE.

LOOK HOW MY GENERALS ARE OVER-JOYED BY OUR ALLIANCE.

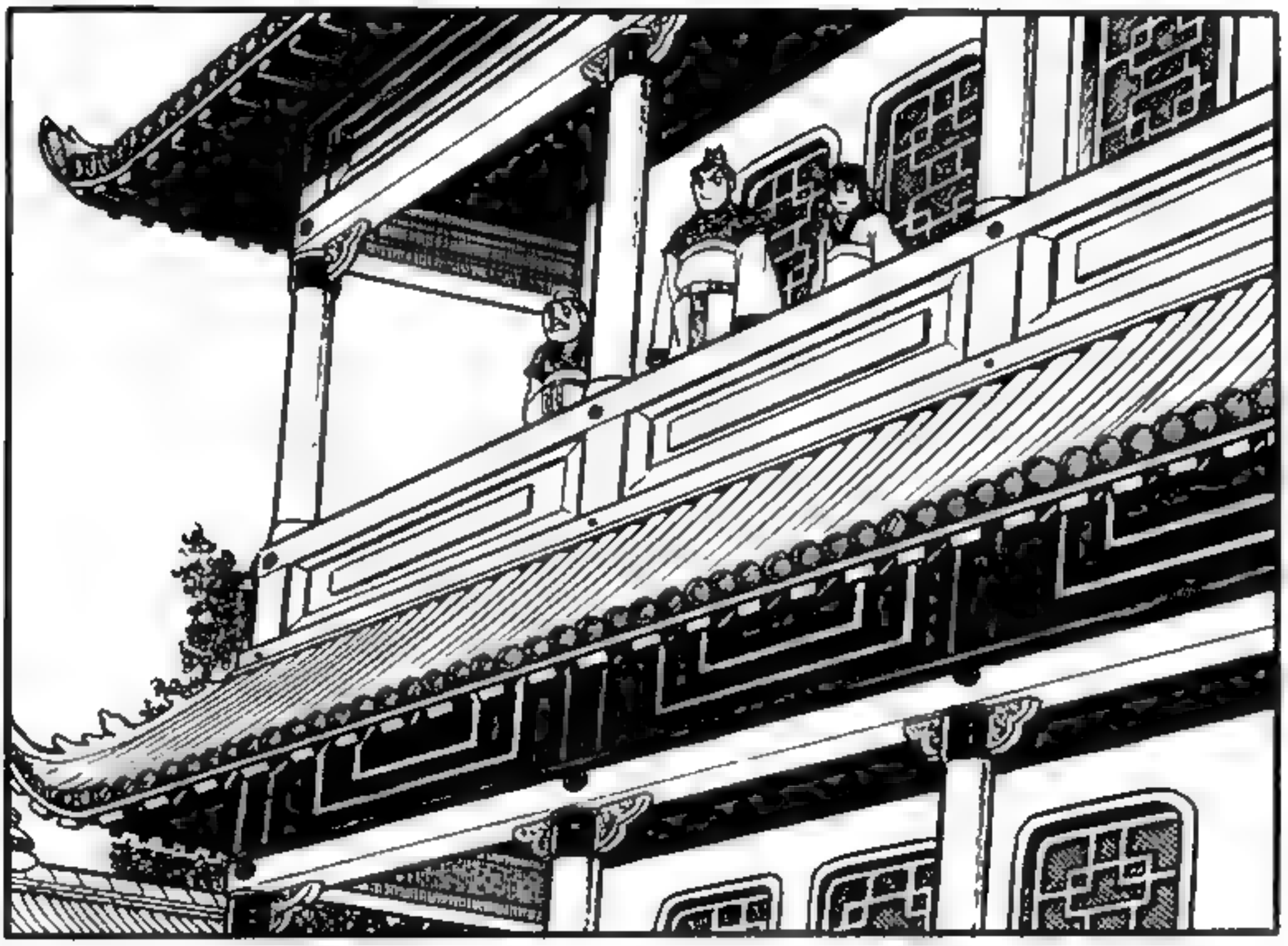
WHISPER WHISPER

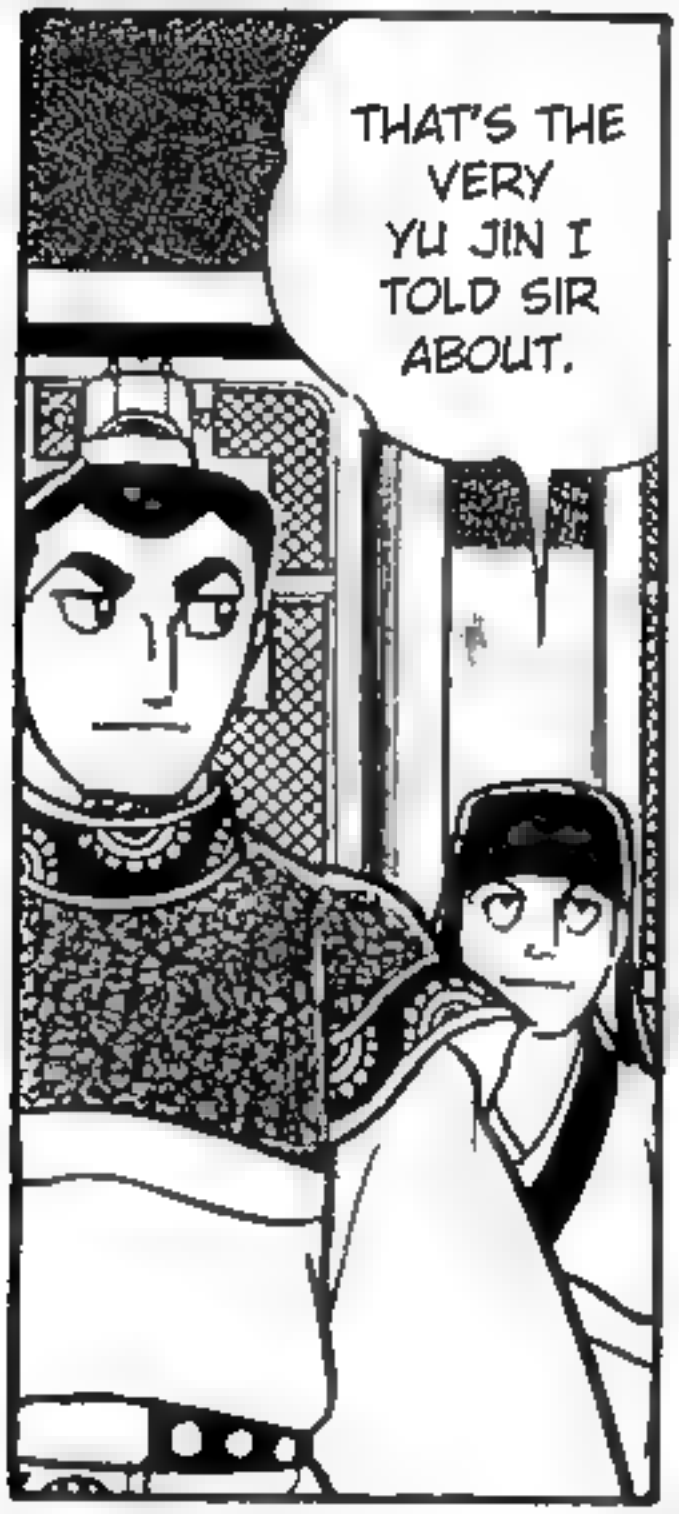
WHISPER WHISPER

IT SEEMS THAT THE FAMOUS TAOIST PRIEST YU JIN HAS COME TO THE CITY. THE OTHER GENERALS ARE RUSHING OVER TO CATCH A GLIMPSE OF HIM.

WHAT IS IT?

SAINT YU JIN?




THAT'S THE VERY YU JIN I TOLD SIR ABOUT.

WHO'S THAT TATTERED OLD MAN?

IT IS SAID THAT HE CAN CURE ALL SORTS OF ILL-NESSES AND EVEN BRING FORTH MIRACLES.
THOUGH HE LIVES IN THE EAST, HE TRAVELS TO AND FRO, PROVIDING GUIDANCE AND WISDOM TO THE PEOPLE.

FOOLS!

FOR THAT REASON, THE PEOPLE ALL CALL HIM A SAINT.

WHAT!?

ARREST HIM THIS INSTANT.

BUT IF HE'S ARRESTED, THE PEOPLE WILL RESENT MY LORD...!

DID YOU NOT HEAR ME JUST NOW!? *ARREST HIM!*

HAS THAT OLD BEGGAR ALREADY POISONED YOUR MINDS!?

IF YOU STILL REFUSE, THEN I'LL ARREST YOU *WITH HIM!*

CLEAR THE WAY!

FOR WHAT REASON...?

UNDER MY LORD'S ORDERS, WE HEREBY PLACE YOU UNDER ARREST.

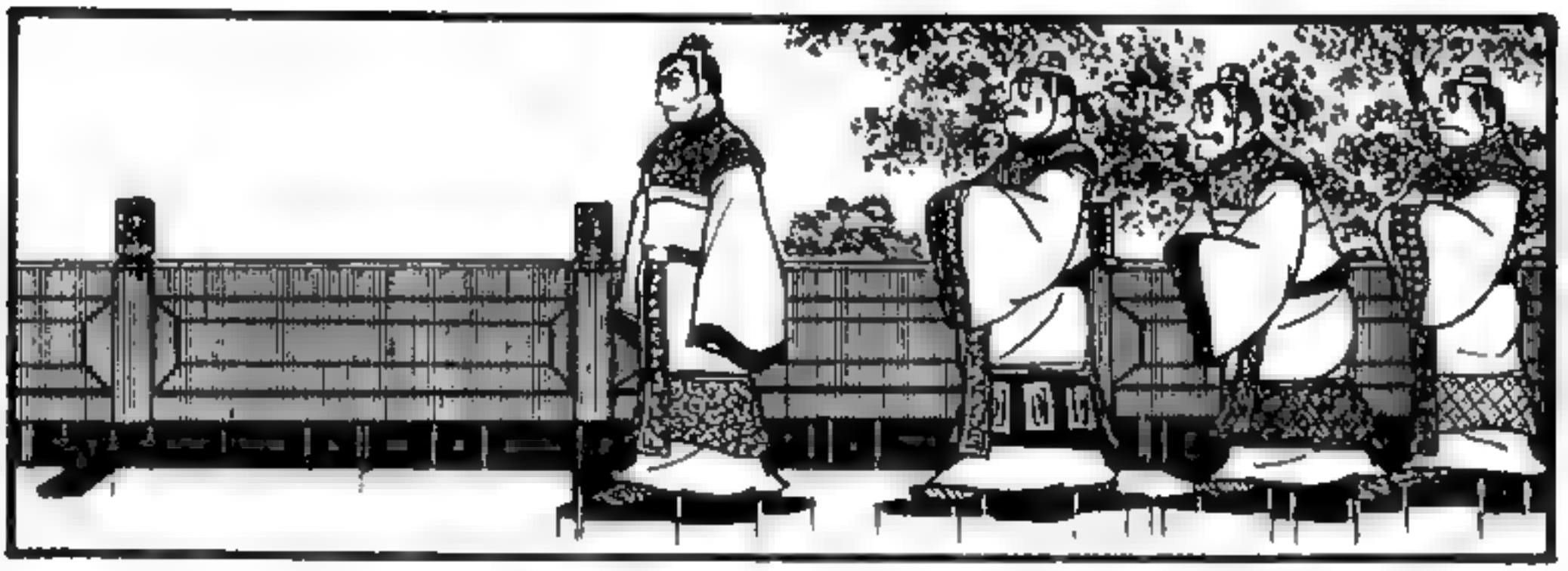
YOU CAN ASK HIM YOURSELF.

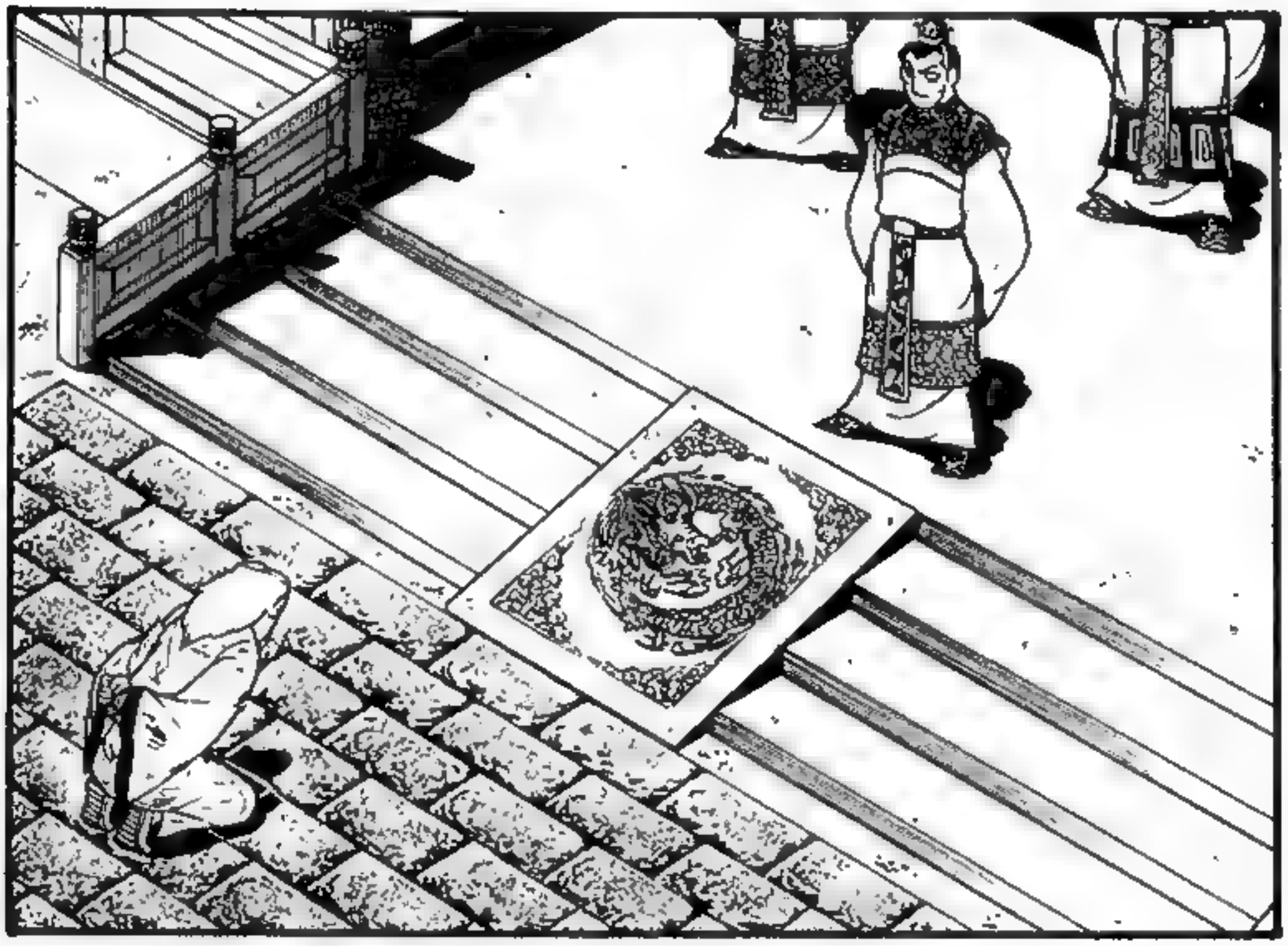
MAY THE HEAVENS HELP HIM.

HOW CAN THIS BE?

ST. YU JIN!

WE'VE ARRESTED HIM, MY LORD.





I SHOULD ASK *YOU* WHY YOU MUST MISLEAD MY PEOPLE!

WHY MUST YOU ARREST A HARMLESS OLD MAN LIKE ME THUS?

YOU FILL MY PEOPLE WITH HERETICAL NONSENSE AND SUPERSTITIONS AND YOU WANT ME TO ***THANK YOU!?*** DO YOU TAKE THIS SUN CE FOR A FOOL!?

MISLEAD? WHY, I MERELY SHARE THEM THE WISDOM AND PATH TO HAPPINESS THAT I'VE LEARNED FROM MY STUDIES.

OFF WITH THIS MAN'S HEAD!

MY LORD, I MUST ADVISE AGAINST THAT! THIS OLD MAN HASN'T COMMITTED A SINGLE CRIME! KILL HIM NOW AND SIR SHALL LOSE THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE.

IF YOU STILL REFUSE MY ORDER,

SILENCE! KILLING A MAN LIKE HIM IS GETTING RID OF A RABID MUTT.

THEN I SHALL CUT HIM DOWN MYSELF. HAND ME A SWORD!

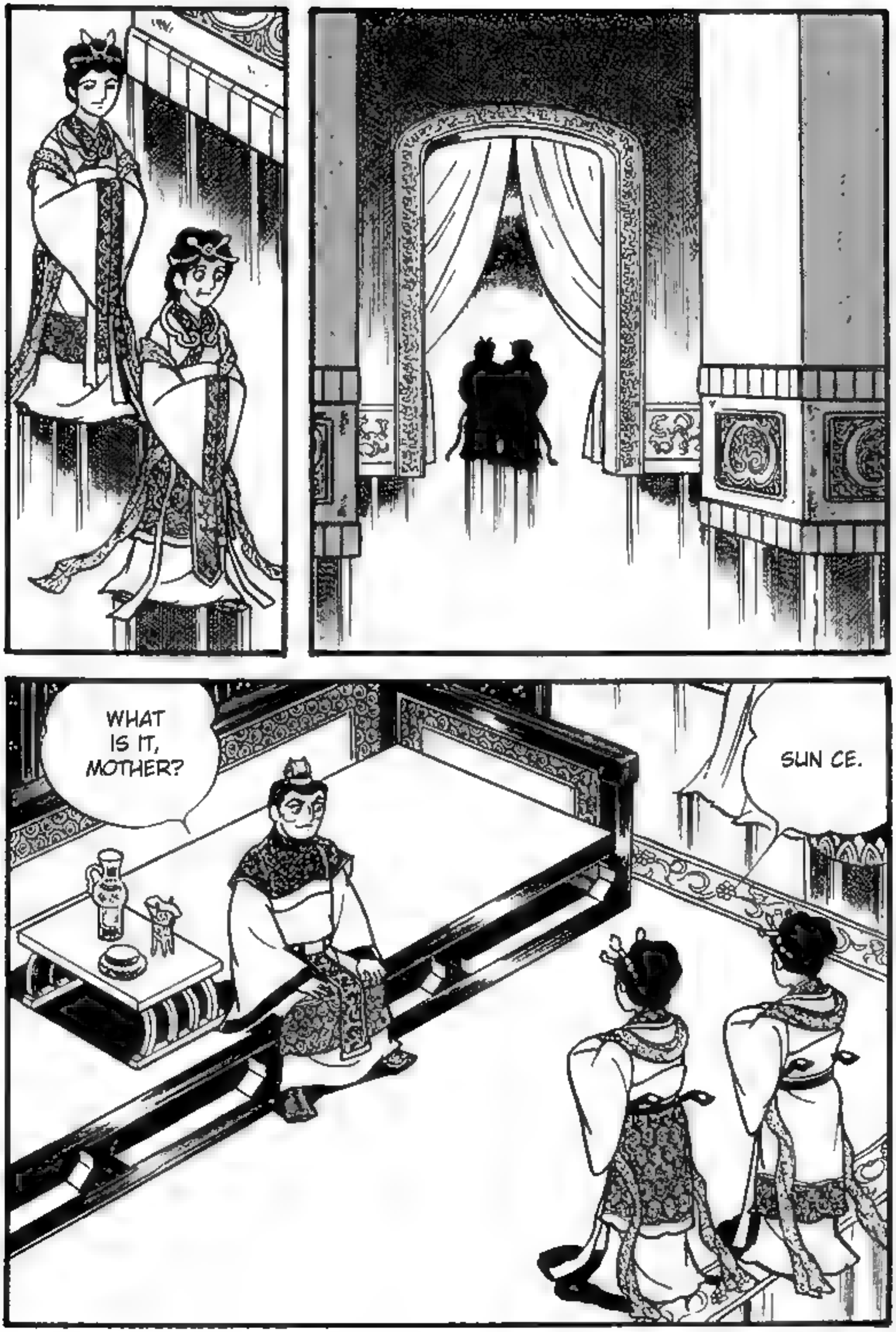
PLEASE, MY LORD! TODAY IS A FESTIVE DAY TO CELEBRATE THE GOOD NEWS. WE MUSTN'T SPILL BLOOD ON A DAY LIKE THIS.

FINE, BUT LOCK HIM UP NOW WITH SHACKLES!

TRUE, YOU DO HAVE A POINT...

PLEASE FORGIVE US, SAINT YU JIN, BUT WE CANNOT GO AGAINST OUR LORD'S ORDERS.

THE ONLY THING WE CAN DO IS UNTIE THESE ROPES AND NOT PUT ON YOUR FETTERS.


WHAT IS IT, MOTHER?
SUN CE.

YES, AND I'LL EXECUTE HIM IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

IS IT TRUE THAT YOU ARRESTED SAINT YU JI?

HAVE YOU FALLEN FOR HIS TRICKS TOO, MOTHER?

BUT THAT MAN IS A SAINT WHO CURES PEOPLE!

SO IT'S TRUE!? JUST WHAT DID SAINT YU JI EVER DO, MY SON!?

DEAR, MUST YOU REALLY EXECUTE HIM?

TO THINK THAT EVEN MY MOTHER WOULD BE TRICKED BY HIS NONSENSE...

THAT OLD MAN WILL BE THE DEATH OF THIS NATION LEST I DO SOMETHING, YOU HEAR!

EVEN YOU...?

CONSIDER THIS. EVEN A SINGLE POISONOUS MOTH CAN LAY THOUSANDS OF EGGS, AND EACH ONE OF ITS OFFSPRINGS WILL LAY THOUSANDS MORE. DO YOU SEE WHAT I AM GETTING AT!?

DO YOU THINK I ENJOY KILLING? THIS IS ALL FOR THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF WU!

I MUST STOP THAT OLD MAN BEFORE HE CORRUPTS ANY MORE PEOPLE AND BRINGS THIS NATION TO RUIN!

.....

NOW DON'T SAY ANYMORE AND WITHDRAW.

IS SOME-ONE THERE!?

THE SITUATION'S MUCH GRAVER THAN I HAD THOUGHT...

YOU CALLED, SIR?

YES, SIR.

BRING THAT YU JI OR WHATEVER HIS NAME IS TO ME!

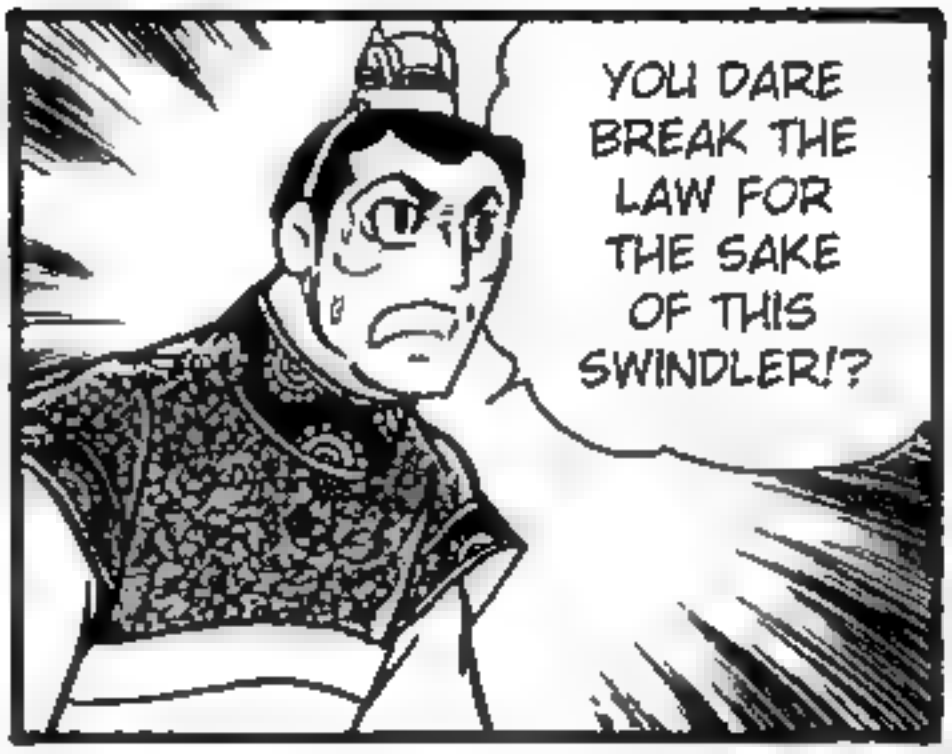
HE'S WAITING OUTSIDE, SIR.

HMM?

WELL, HE'S ONLY A FRAIL OLD MAN SO I...

WHERE ARE THE FETTERS FOR HIS HEAD AND ARMS!?

YOU INSO-LENT FOOL!


YOU! DARE BREAK THE LAW FOR THE SAKE OF THIS SWINDLER!?

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN, OLD MAN.

MY LORD! PLEASE WAIT!

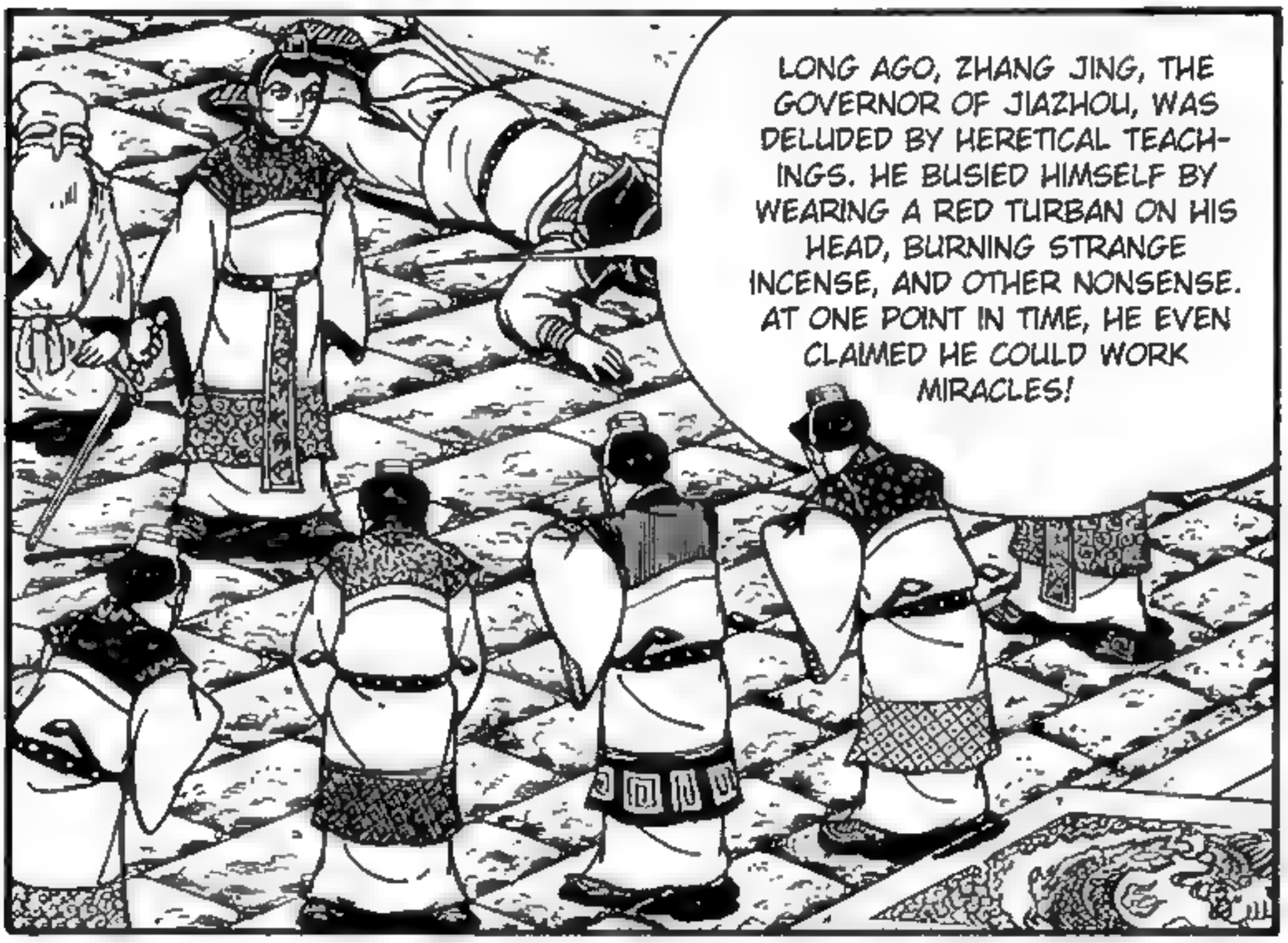
WE'VE COME TO PLEAD FOR YU JIN'S PARDON.

AND WHAT BRINGS ALL OF YOU GENTLEMEN HERE?

WHAT!?

THIS IS A PETITION THAT WE AND ALL YOUR LOYAL VASSALS HAVE SIGNED.

HOW COULD YOU SCHOLARS OF ALL PEOPLE BE SO IGNORANT!?


LONG AGO, ZHANG JING, THE GOVERNOR OF JIAZHOU, WAS DELUDED BY HERETICAL TEACHINGS. HE BUSIED HIMSELF BY WEARING A RED TURBAN ON HIS HEAD, BURNING STRANGE INCENSE, AND OTHER NONSENSE. AT ONE POINT IN TIME, HE EVEN CLAIMED HE COULD WORK MIRACLES!

BUT WHAT WAS THE RESULT!? BARBARIANS OF THE SOUTH KILLED HIM! SOME GOOD HIS SO-CALLED MIRACLES DID FOR HIM!

BELIEVING IN A FALSE PRETENDER LIKE HIM SHALL RUIN US ALL!

THIS MAN IS THE SAME!

T-THEN WHY NOT TEST TO SEE IF YU JIN IS REALLY A FALSE PRETENDER OR NOT?

AND SO I MUST KILL THIS MAN TO PREVENT THAT!

THE RECENT HEAT SPELL IS CAUSING MUCH HARM TO PEASANTS FOR THEIR FARMLANDS ARE DRYING UP.

YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR THAT?

THAT'S A FINE IDEA. IT'LL BE A GOOD CHANCE FOR THE PEOPLE TO SEE HIM FOR THE SHAM HE IS.

SO LET US SEE IF THIS SAINT CAN REALLY WORK MIRCALES OR NOT BY HAVING HIM PRAY FOR RAIN. IF HE FAILS, THEN SIR CAN EXECUTE HIM ON THE SPOT.

PREPARE HIM AN ALTAR SO HE CAN PRAY FOR RAIN!

IF YOU ARE A REAL SAINT, THIS SHOULD BE AN EASY TASK FOR YOU.

YES, SIR.

LOCK HIM BACK UP IN THE CELL UNTIL THE ALTAR IS BUILT.

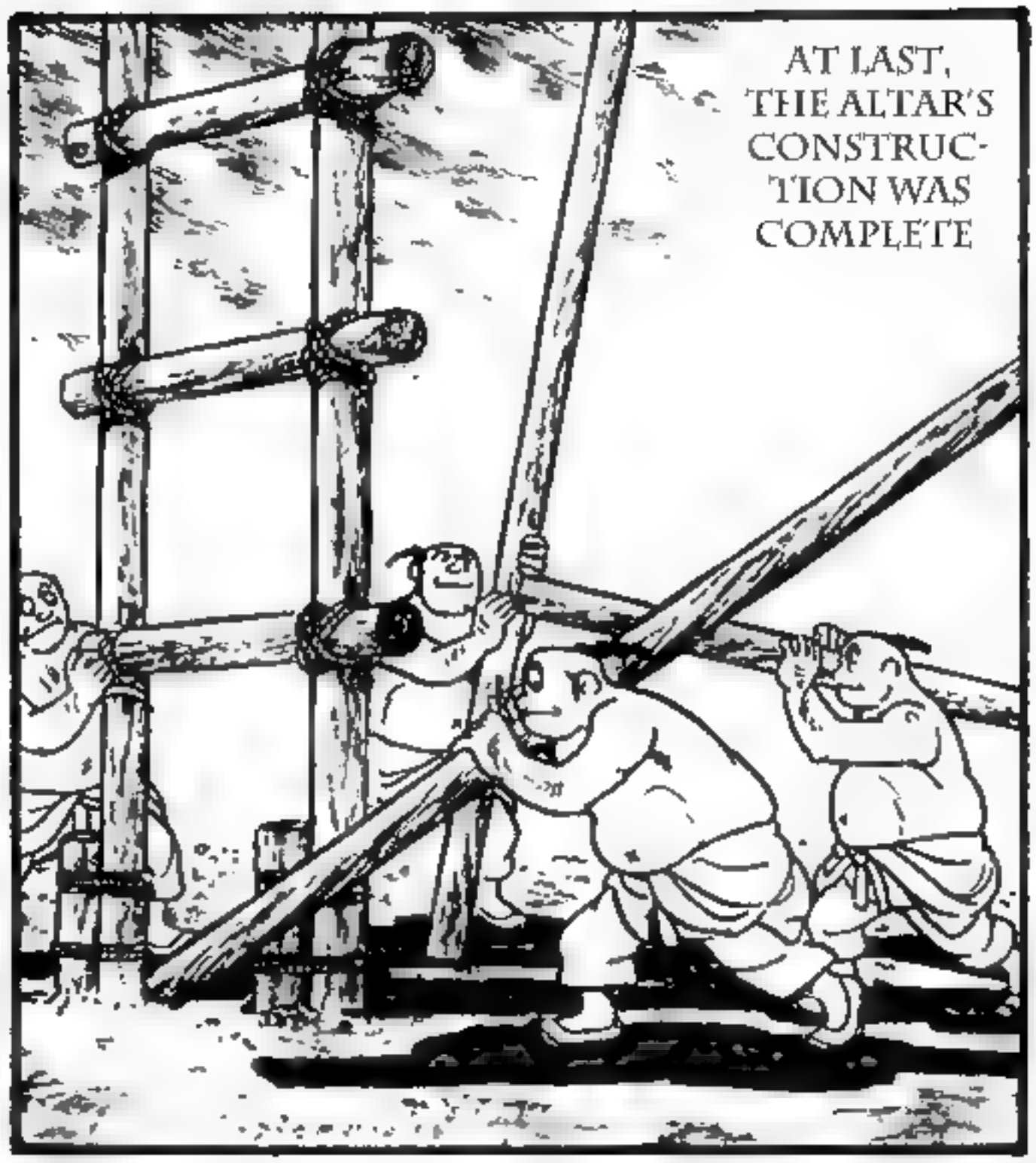
BUT SURELY A GREAT SAINT SUCH AS SIR CAN CALL FORTH A LITTLE RAIN?

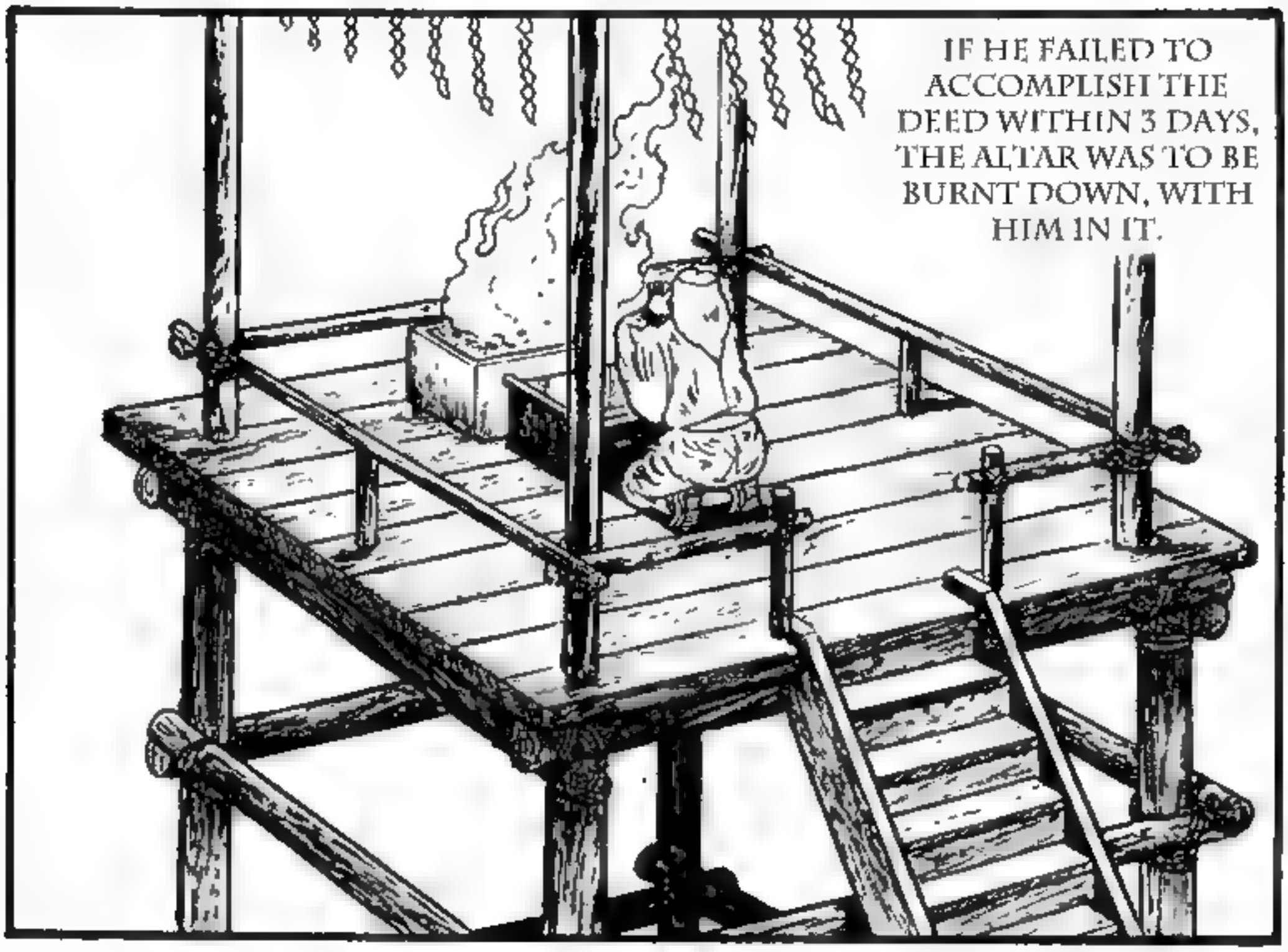
HM?

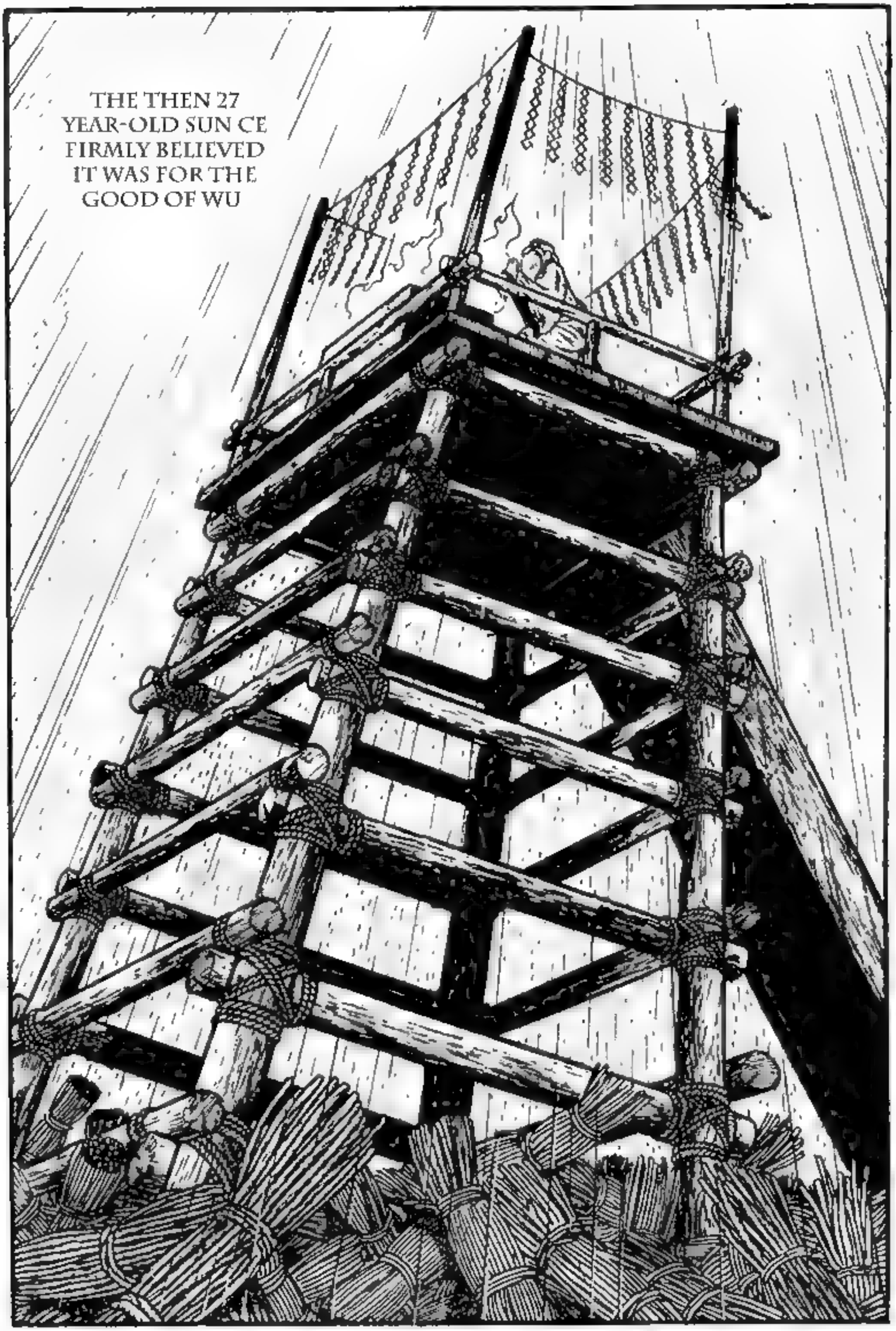
IT SEEMS THAT MY END IS NEAR.

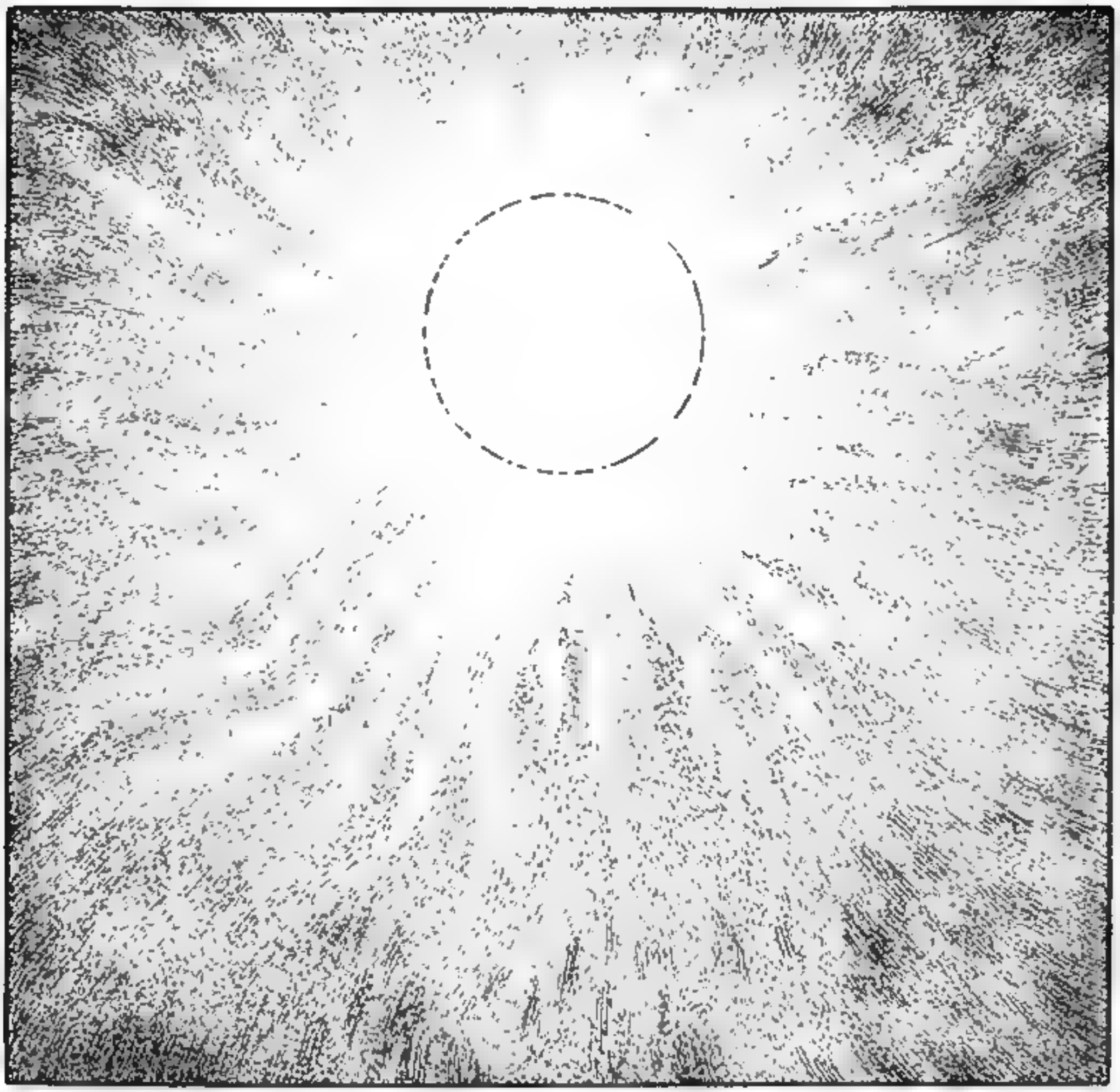
CALLING FORTH RAIN MAY BE POSSIBLE, BUT ESCAPING FATE IS NOT.

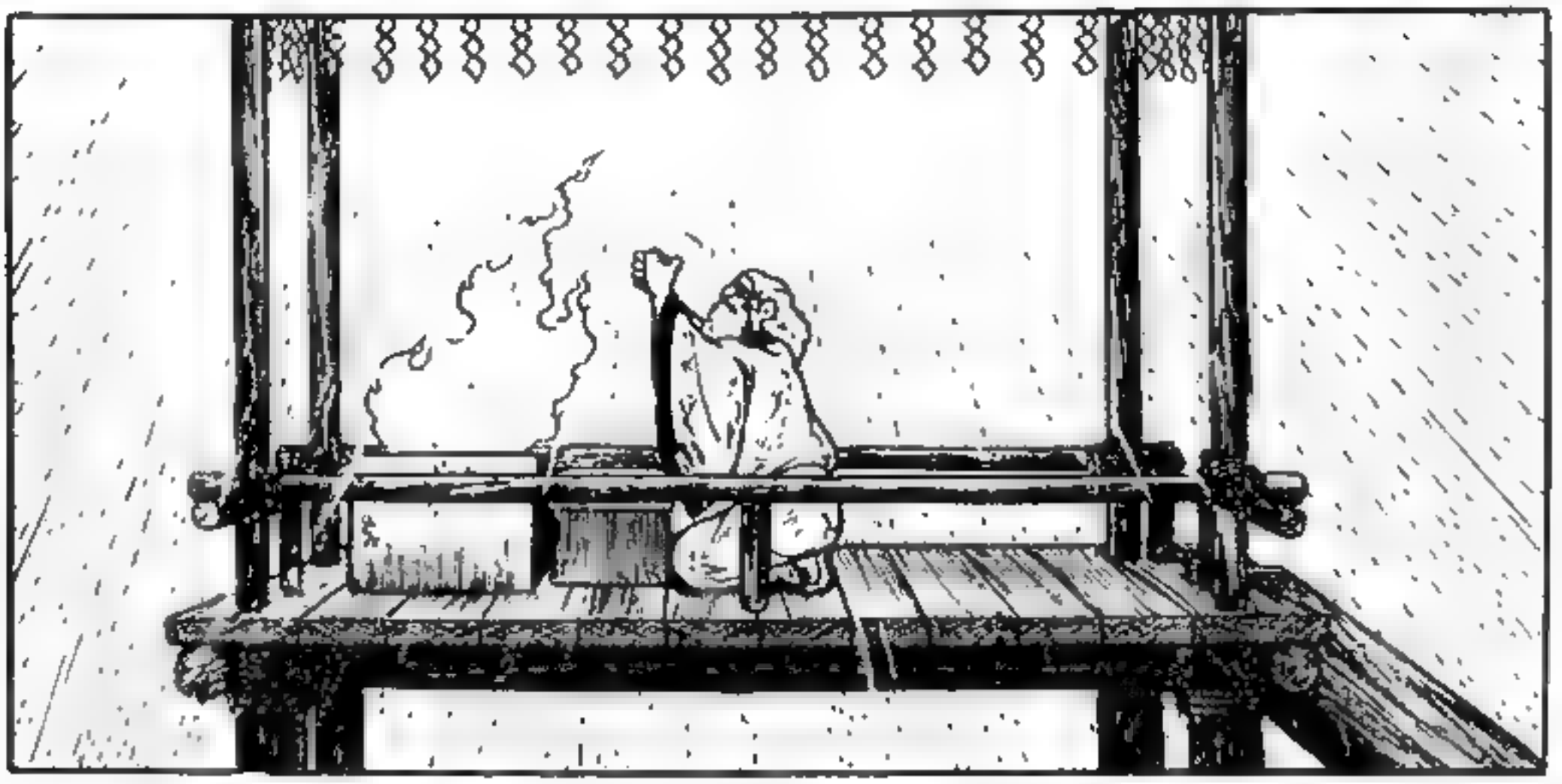
AMIDST THE WATCHFUL CROWD'S STARE, YU JIN BEGAN HIS INCANTATIONS.

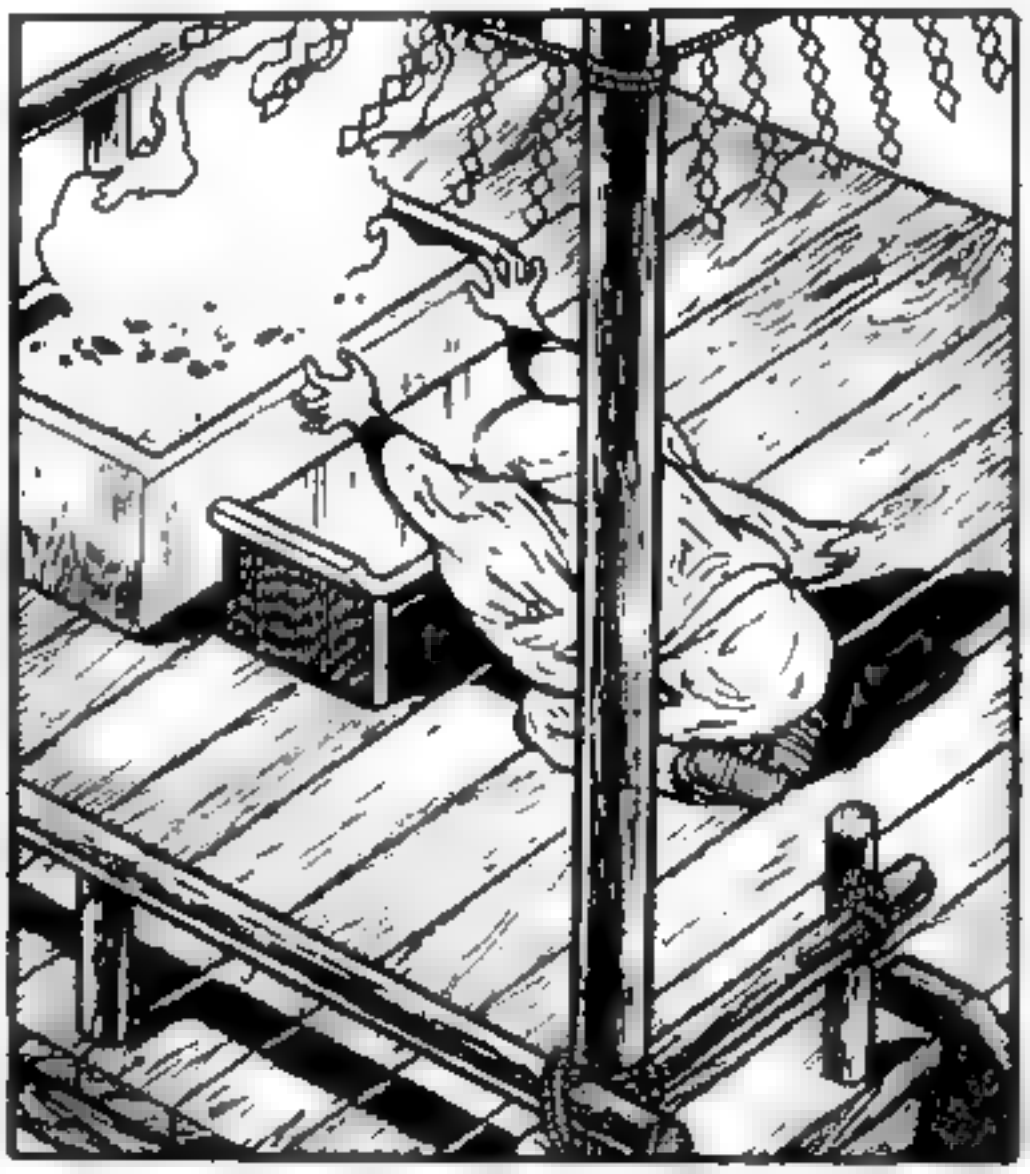

AT LAST, THE ALTAR'S CONSTRUCTION WAS COMPLETE

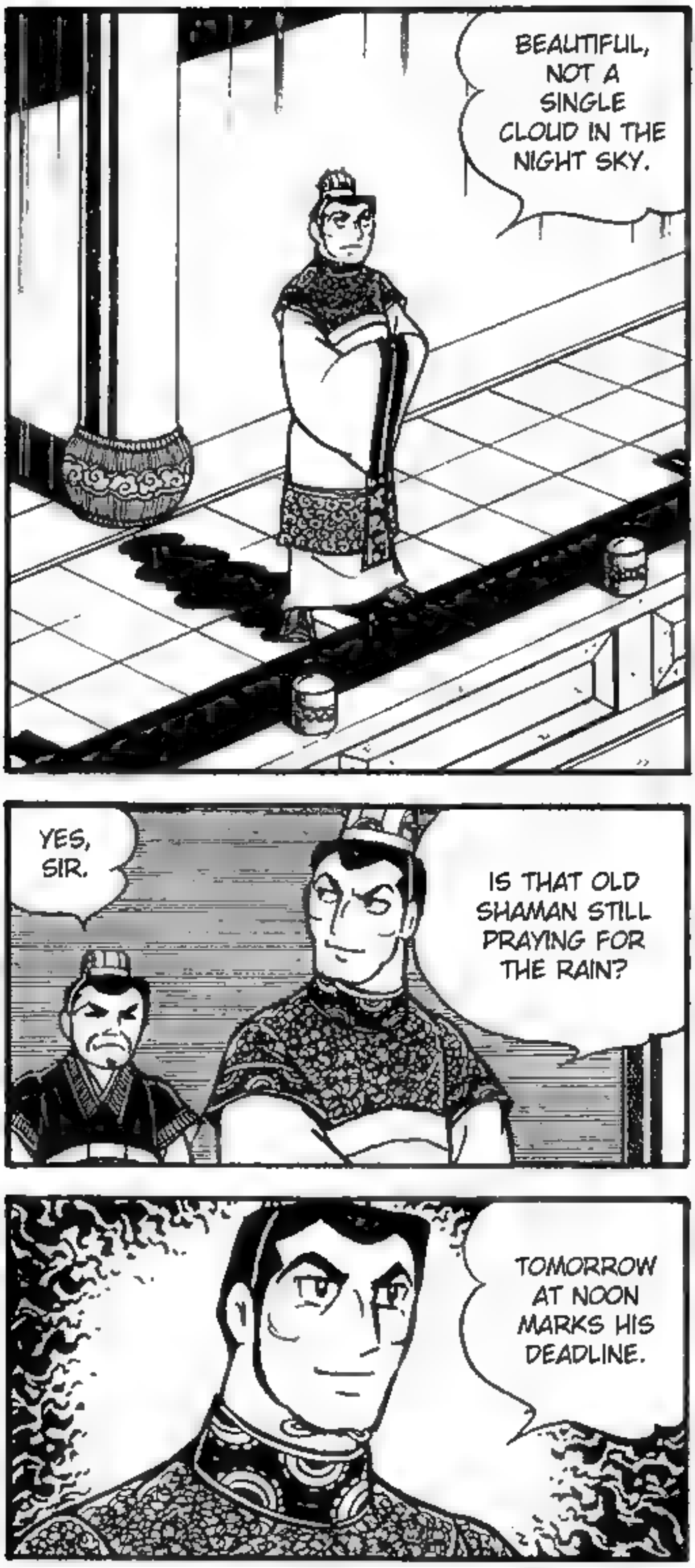

IF HE FAILED TO ACCOMPLISH THE DEED WITHIN 3 DAYS, THE ALTAR WAS TO BE BURNT DOWN, WITH HIM IN IT.


THE THEN 27
YEAR-OLD SUN CE
FIRMLY BELIEVED
IT WAS FOR THE
GOOD OF WU



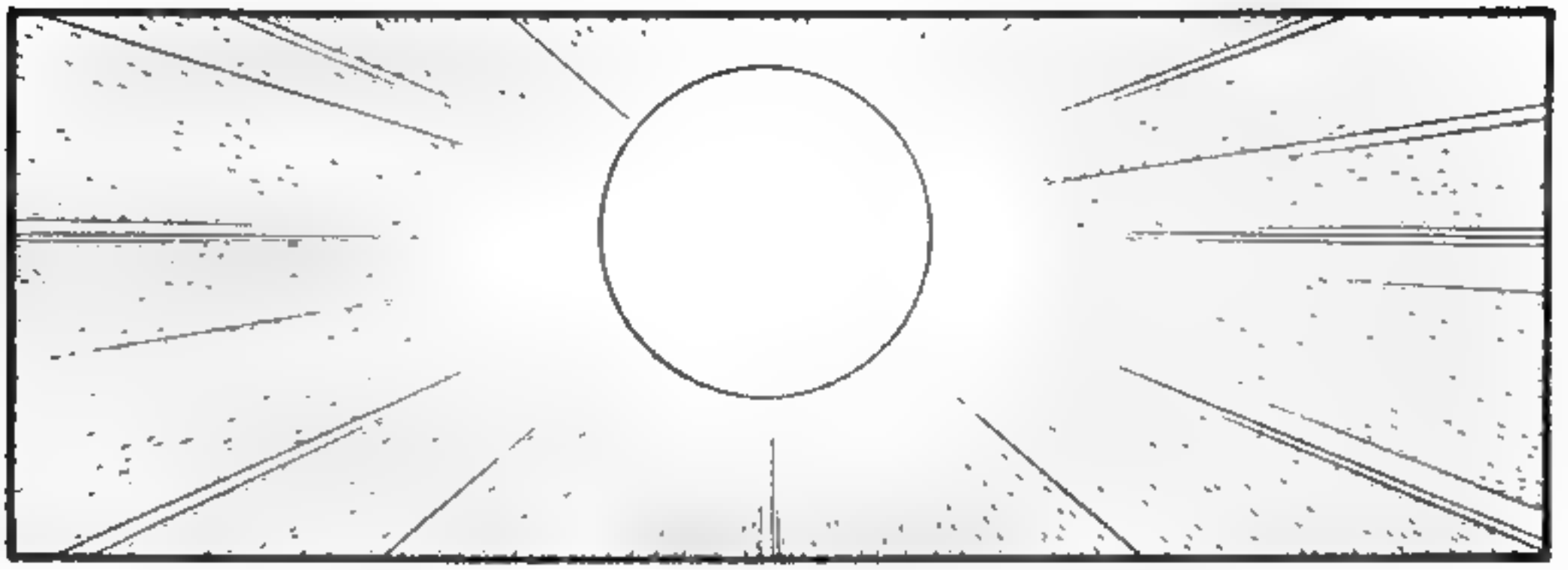


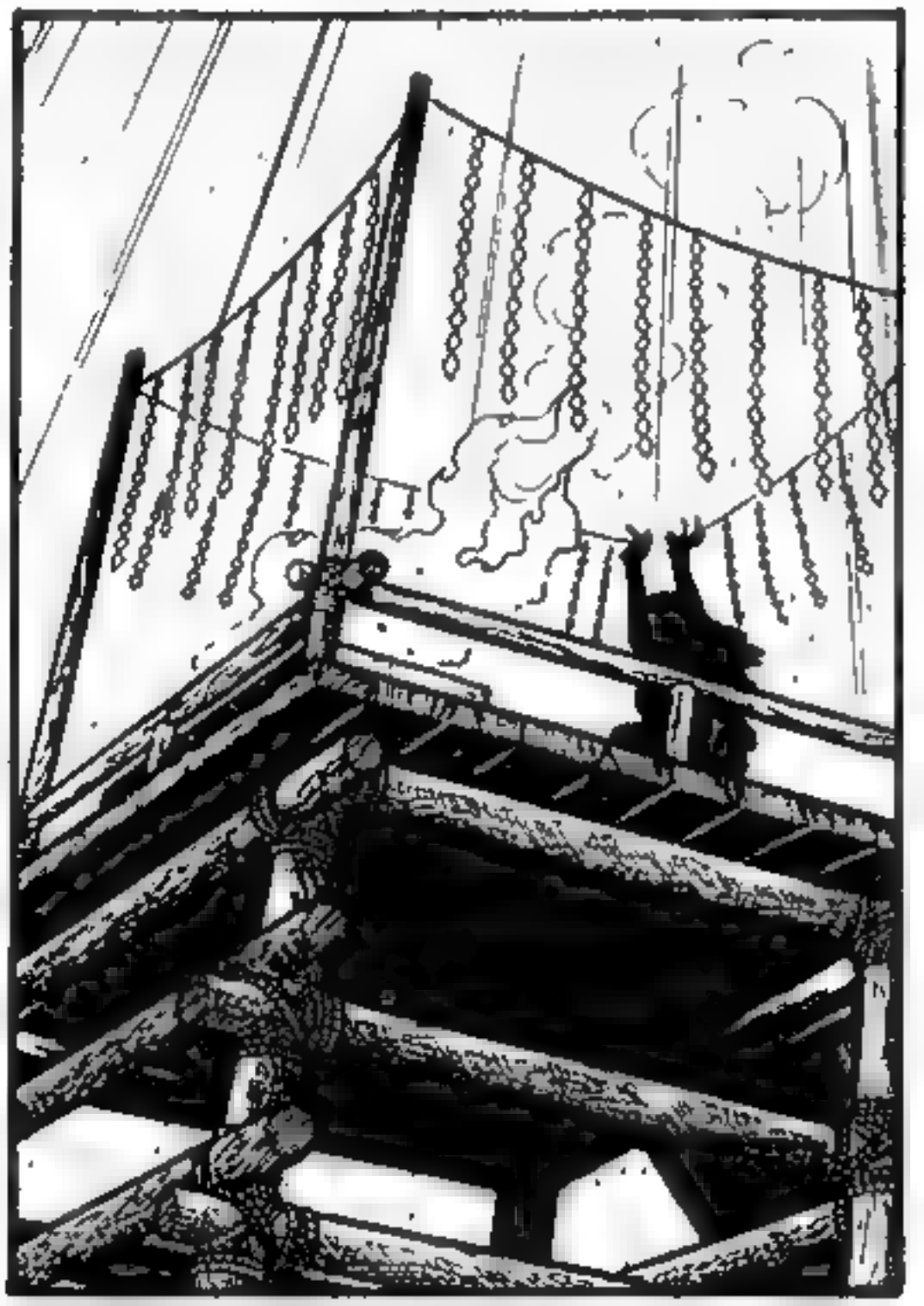



BEAUTIFUL, NOT A SINGLE CLOUD IN THE NIGHT SKY.
YES, SIR.
IS THAT OLD SHAMAN STILL PRAYING FOR THE RAIN?
TOMORROW AT NOON MARKS HIS DEADLINE.

MAN CANNOT CHANGE THE WHIMS OF NATURE. ONLY NATURE HERSELF WILL DECIDE WHEN IT RAINS OR NOT.

I SHALL REVEAL THAT CHARLATAN FOR WHAT HE REALLY IS, SO THAT THE PEOPLE WILL NEVER AGAIN BELIEVE IN FALSE LEADERS.

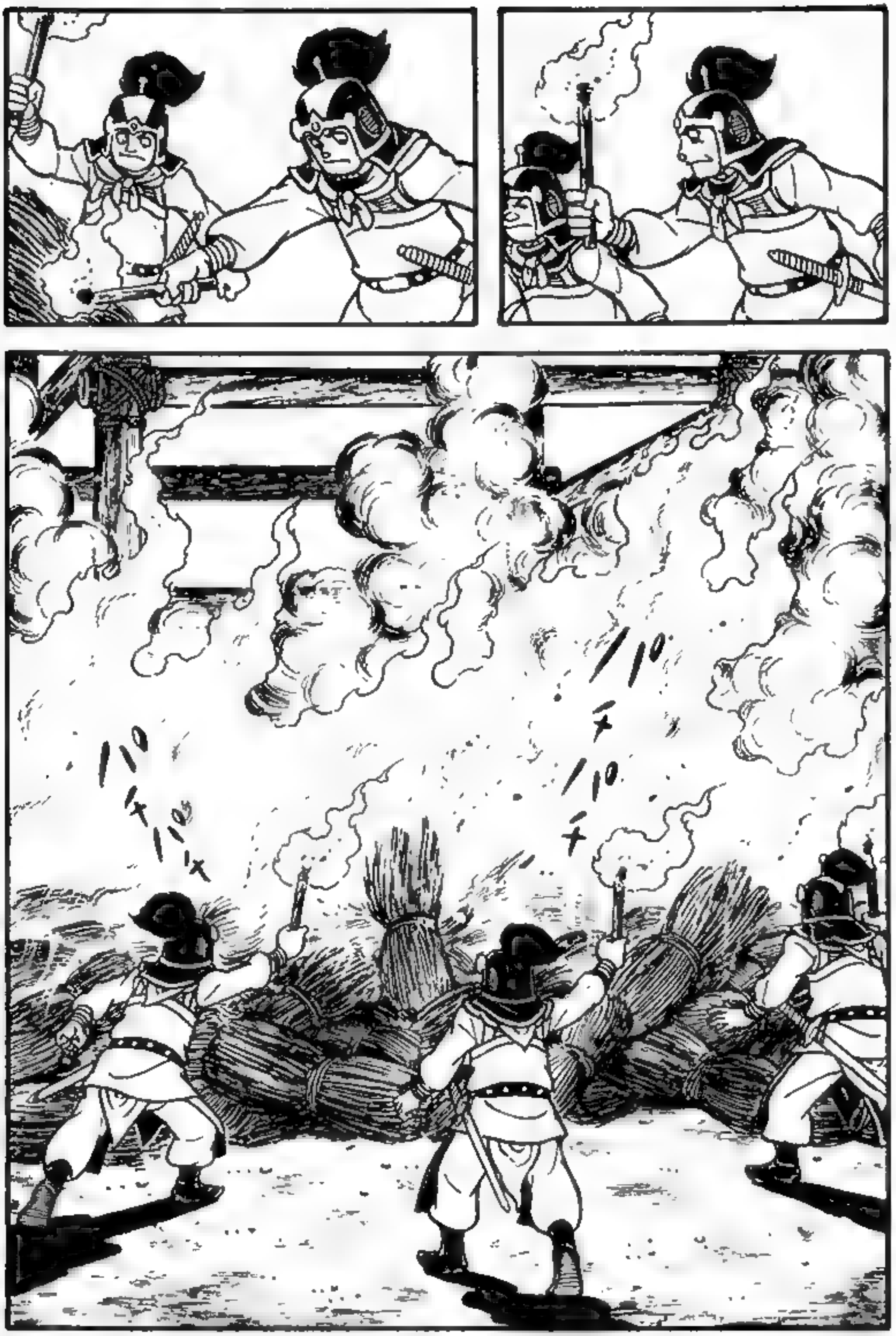




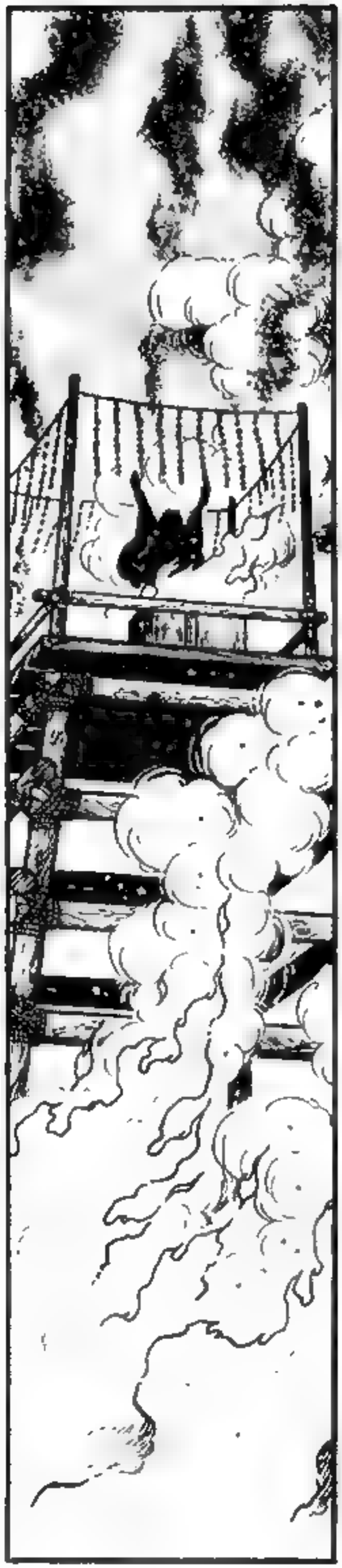
GOOD.

IT IS NOW THE DEADLINE, MY LORD.

LIGHT THE ALTAR AND BURN THAT FRAUD ALIVE!



HEAR ME WELL, PEOPLE! SEE FOR YOURSELF WHAT KIND OF A MAN YOUR SAINT REALLY IS!
NOW OPEN YOUR EYES! IF YOU CONTINUE TO BELIEVE IN FALSE SUPERSTITIONS, IT WILL MEAN THE DEATH OF OUR NATION!



HM?

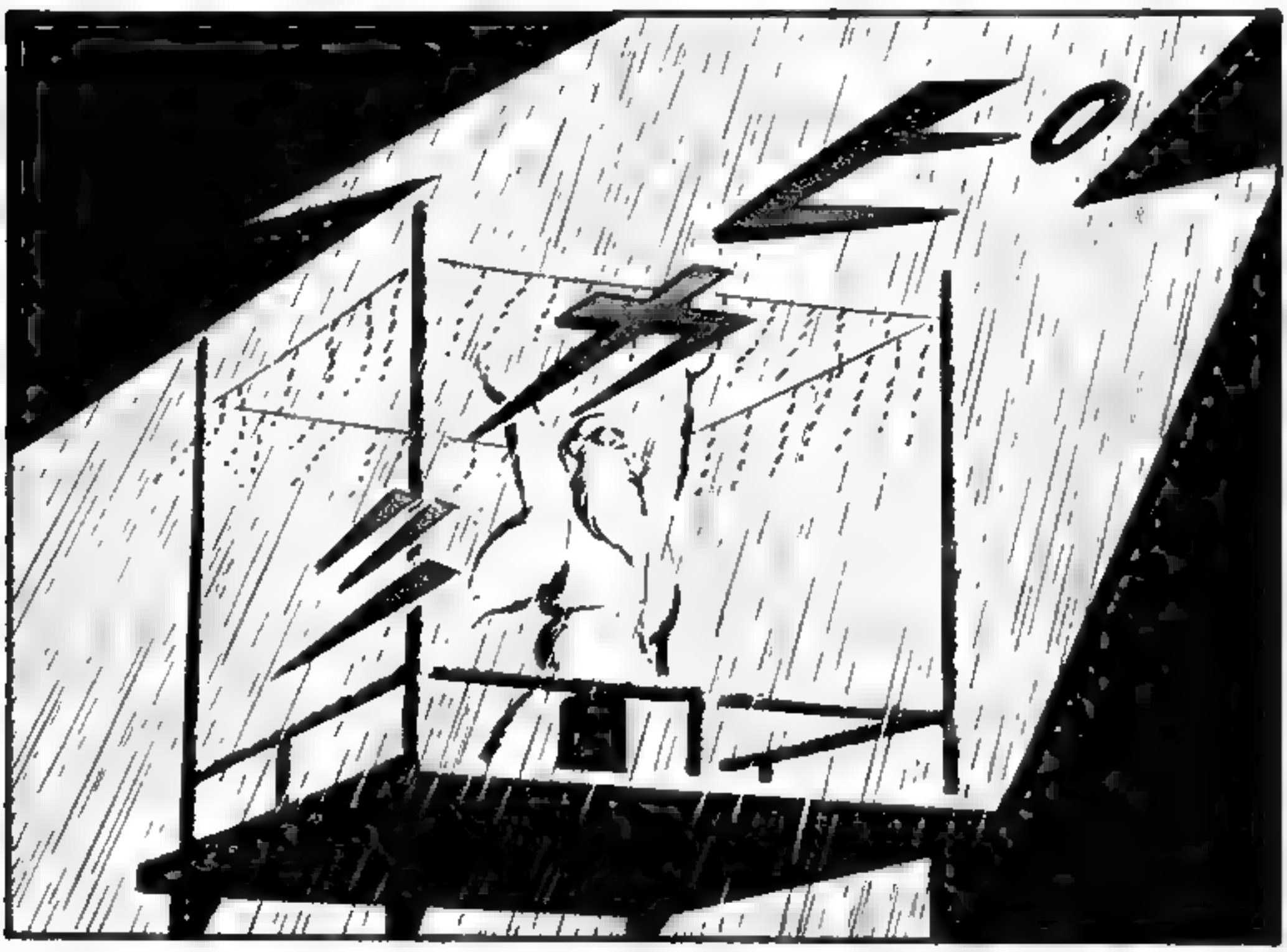
ﻻ ﻩ ﻩ ﻻ ﻩ ﻻ ﻩ ﻻ ﻩ

SAINT YU
JIN DID IT!

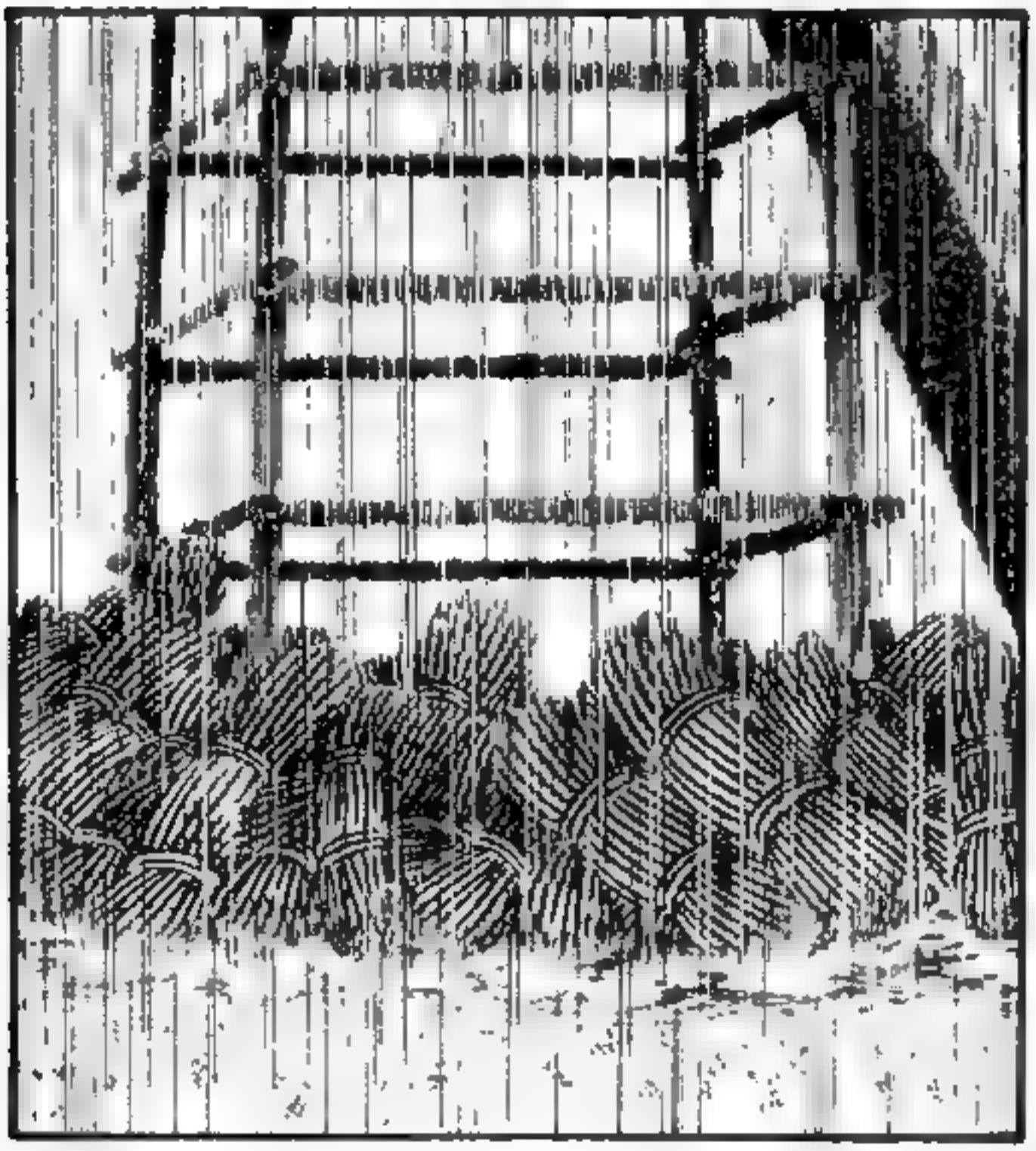
IT'S
RAIN!

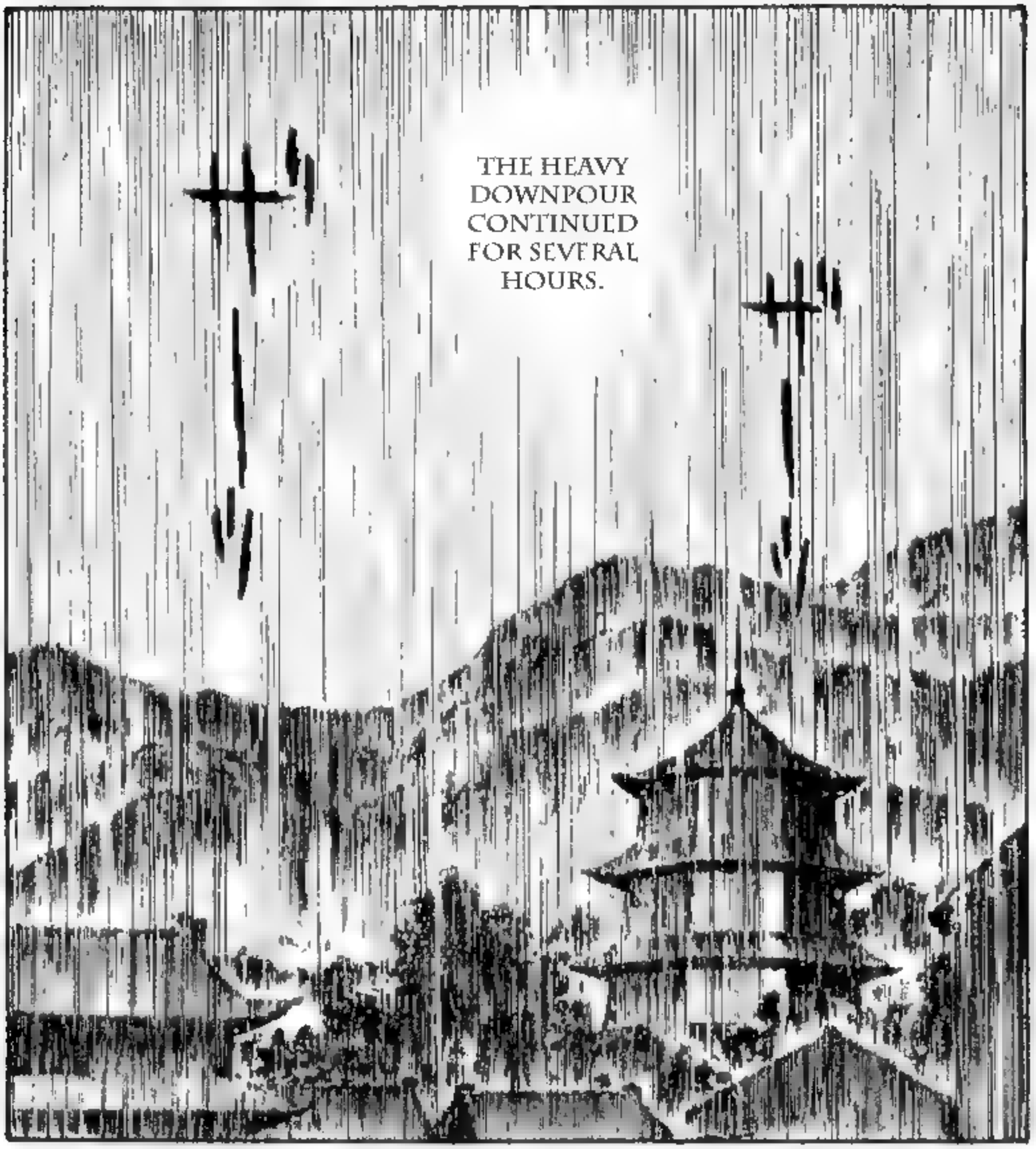
ZO

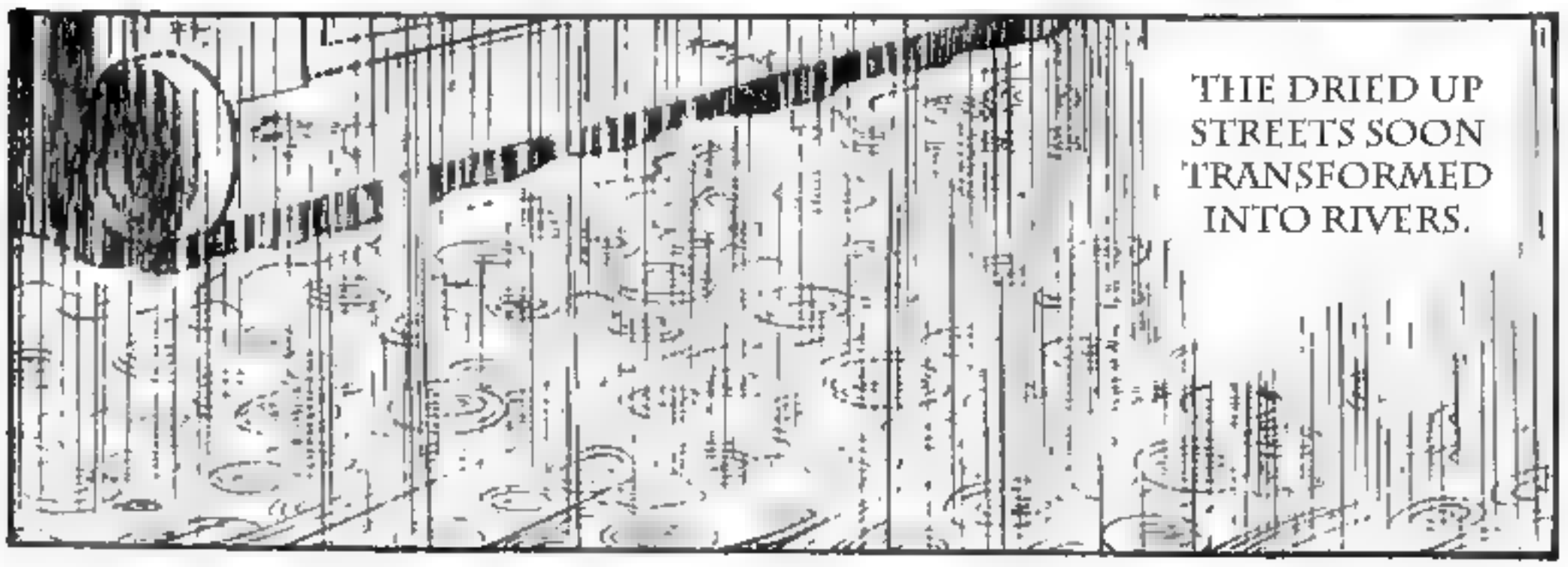
ZI


ZO

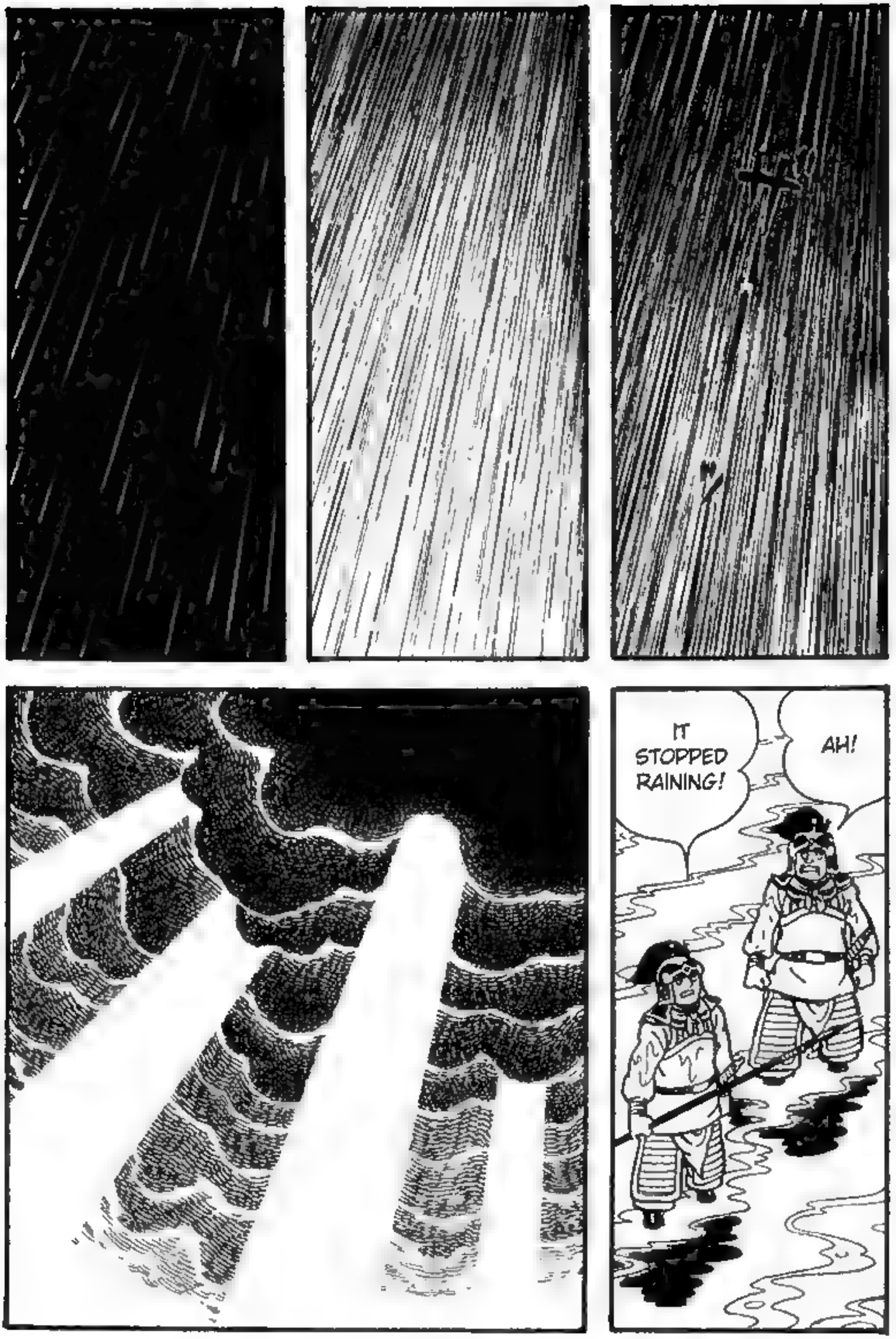
HURRAY!




THE HEAVY DOWNPOUR CONTINUED FOR SEVERAL HOURS.

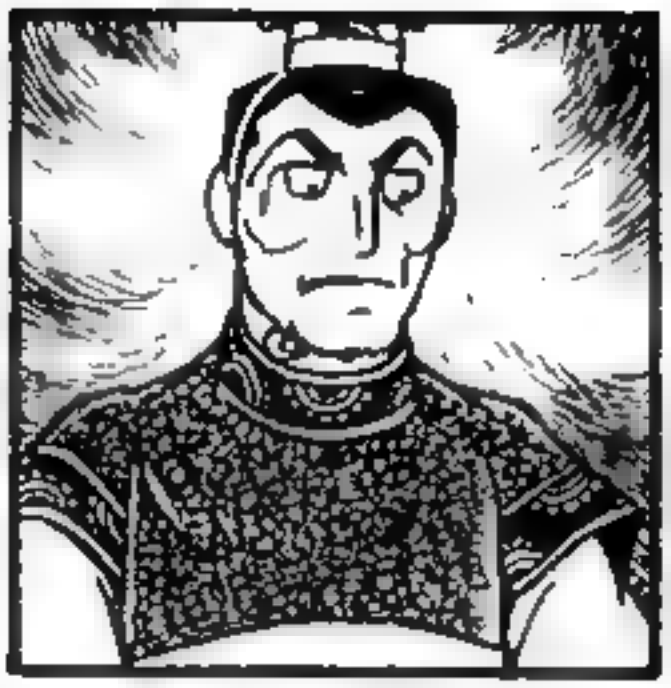

THE DRIED UP STREETS SOON TRANSFORMED INTO RIVERS.

THAT OLD MAN'S GOT QUITE A TERRIFYING POWER.
ANY MORE THAN THIS, AND WE'LL HAVE A FLOOD ON OUR HANDS.
CEASE THY
RAIN!


IT STOPPED RAINING!
AH!

PRAISE SAINT YU JIN!

HE TRULY IS A SAINT!



THANK YOU, ST. YU JIN. THE PEASANTS CAN NOW REST EASY WITHOUT FEARING A DROUGHT.

B-BUT MY LORD!

WHA!?

OFF WITH THIS MAN'S HEAD!

THAT DOWNPOUR WOULD HAVE COME EVEN IF IT WEREN'T FOR HIS PRAYING! HOW COULD YOU GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS BE SO BLIND TO SUCH OBVIOUS FACTS!?

DROUGHT AND RAINS ARE ALL UP TO NATURE'S WHIMS. NO HUMAN CAN CHANGE THAT FACT.

BUT...

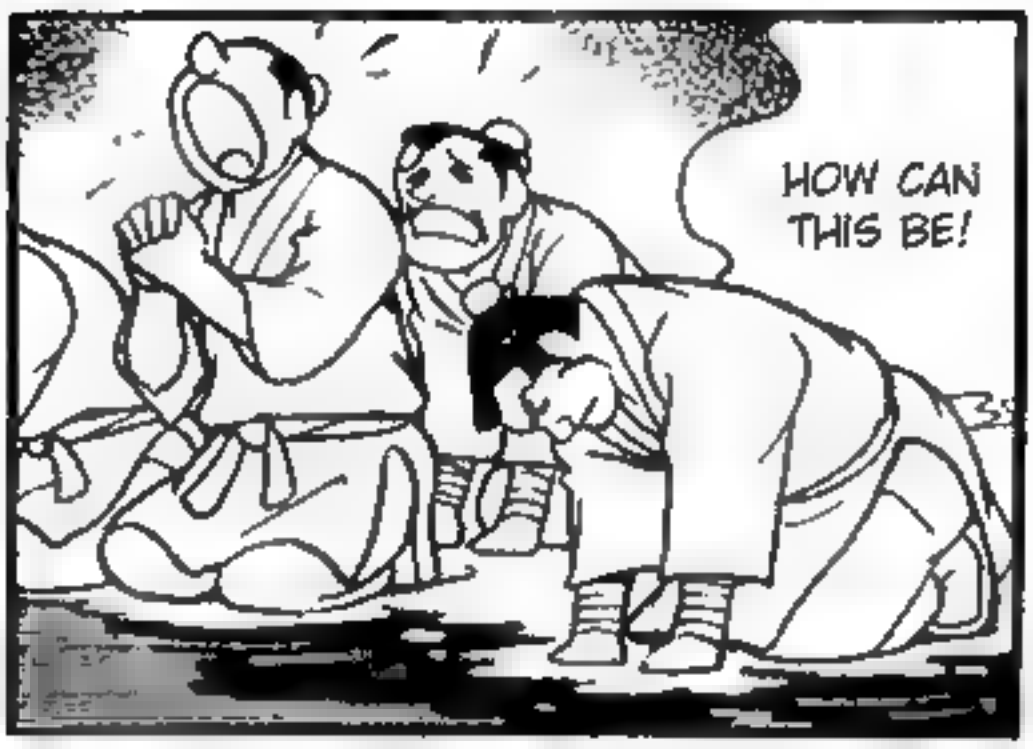
KILL HIM NOW BEFORE HE CORRUPTS THIS NATION ANY MORE!

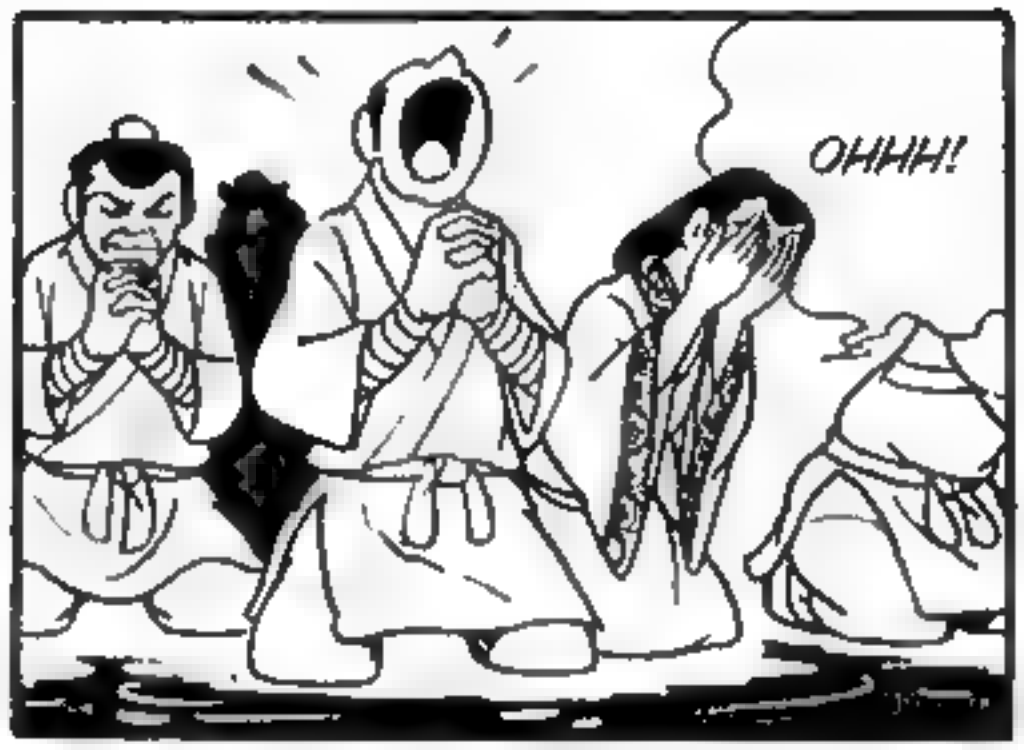
ANYONE WHO DARES TO INTERFERE WILL BE TRIED AS A REBEL.

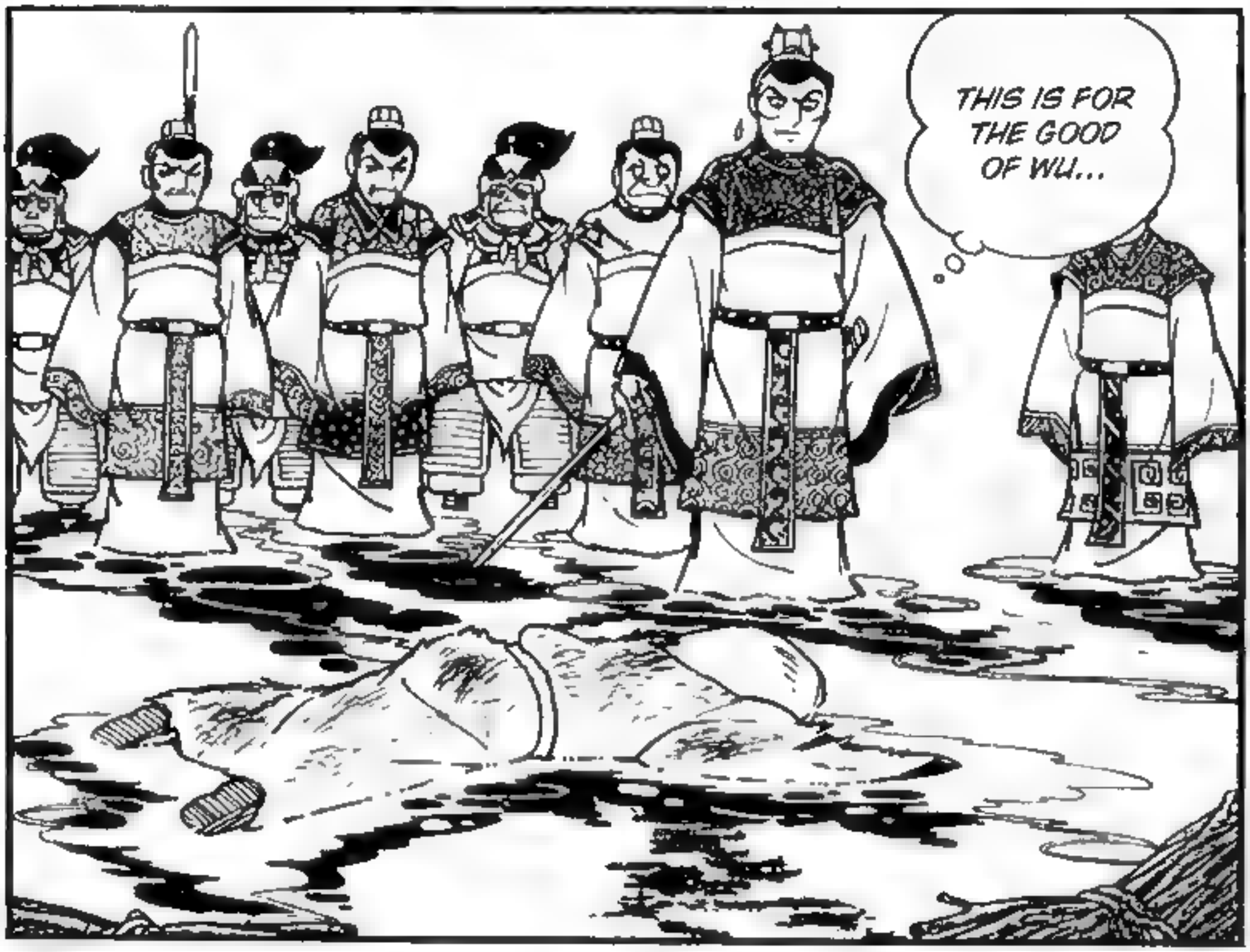
IF YOU MEN CAN'T DO IT, THEN SO BE IT. I SHALL DO IT MYSELF.

IF YOU'RE SO GOOD AT WORKING MIRACLES, THEN LET'S SEE YOU DODGE THIS BLADE!

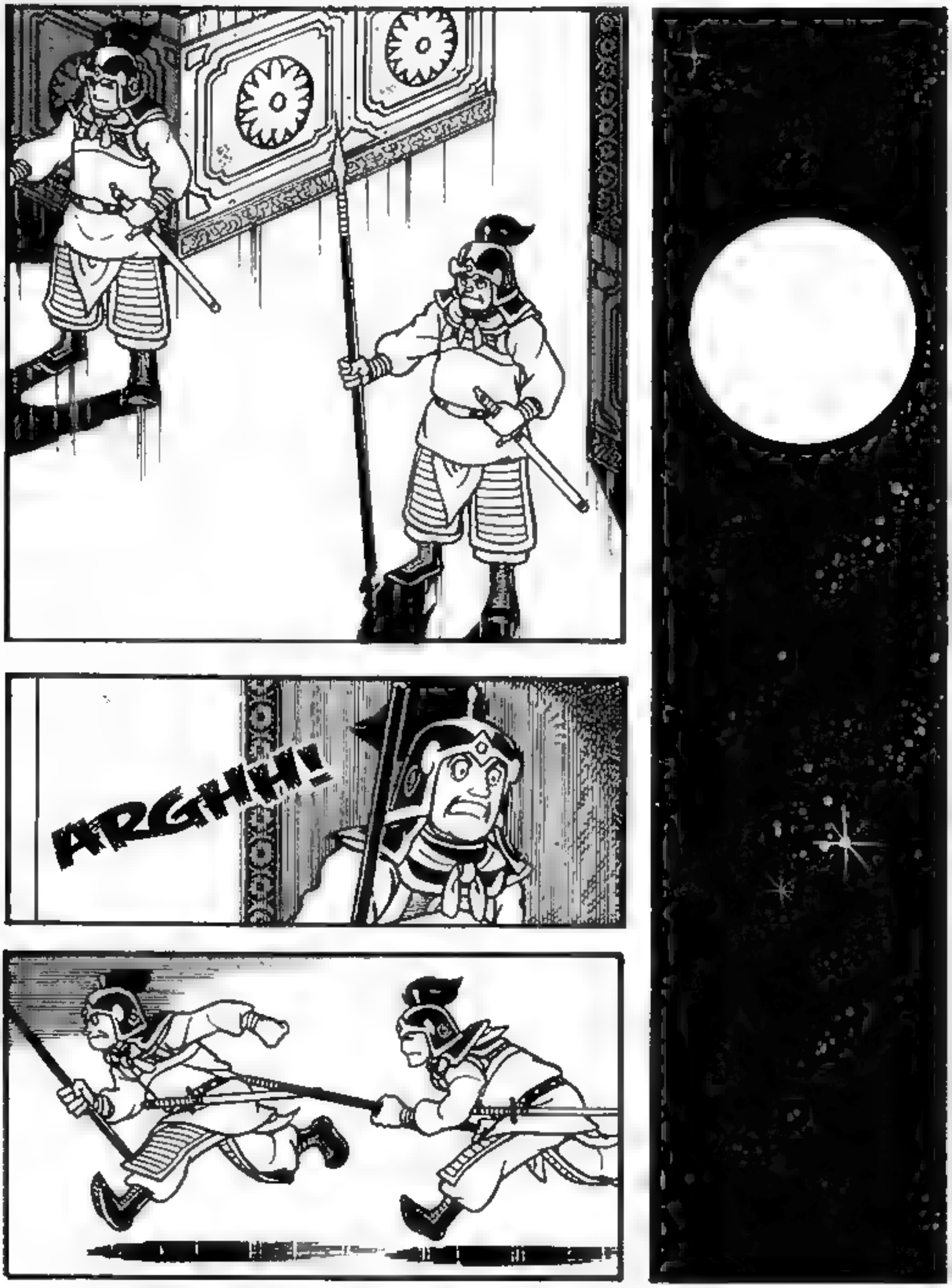
DIE, YOU CHARLATAN!


HOW CAN THIS BE!


OHHH!


THIS IS FOR THE GOOD OF WU...

SUN CE'S END

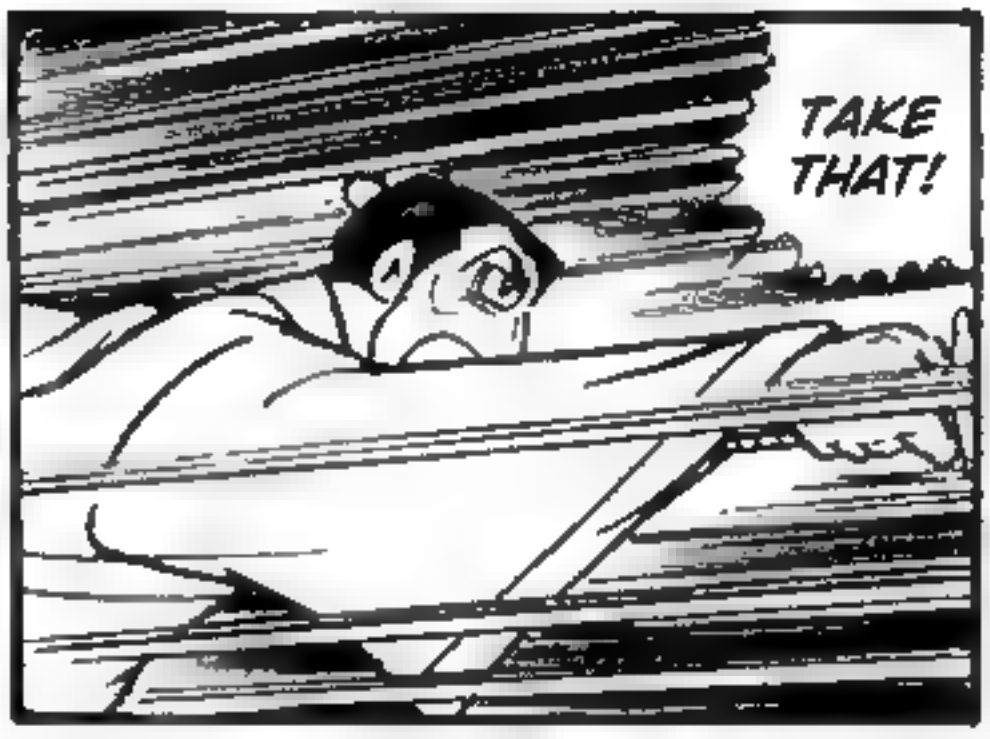


WHAT IS IT, SIR!?

SIR!

GET OUT FROM MY SIGHT!

DIE, YU JIN!


TAKE THAT!

NO WORRIES, I FEEL FINE.

HOW IS MY LORD FEELING TODAY?

EXCELLENT WEATHER WE HAVE TODAY.

EVER SINCE KILLING YU JIN, SUN CE BEGAN TO HAVE CHRONIC NIGHTMARES.

AND WILDLY SWING HIS SWORD, ALL THE WHILE YELLING AT AN IMAGINARY FOE

HE WOULD SUDDENLY WAKE UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT,

BY DAWN, HE WOULD BE FOUND COLLAPSED FROM EXHAUSTION

AH, GOOD. LET THEM IN.

MY LORD, YOUR MOTHER AND WIFE HAVE COME TO PAY A VISIT.

MOTHER, WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE SO EARLY IN THE MORNING?

BUT YOU LOOK ABSOLUTELY DREADFUL AND WORN OUT...

OH, IT'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, MOTHER.

MY SON, I HEARD YOU'VE BEEN SUFFERING FROM NIGHTMARES.

NO, I JUST KNOW THIS IS YU JIN'S CURSE.

THAT'S ONLY BECAUSE I'VE YET TO FULLY RECOVER FROM THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT.

I'M BEING PERFECTLY SERIOUS. PLEASE SUN CE, PRAY FOR HIS FORGIVENESS.

OH PLEASE, MOTHER. LET'S BE SERIOUS NOW.

BUT YU JIN WAS NO ORDINARY MAN. HE WAS A SAINT! I'M SURE OF IT.

YET DESPITE DOING SO, I'VE BEEN FINE ALL THESE YEARS AND I'M STILL FINE NOW. THERE IS NO NEED TO PRAY FOR "FORGIVENESS."

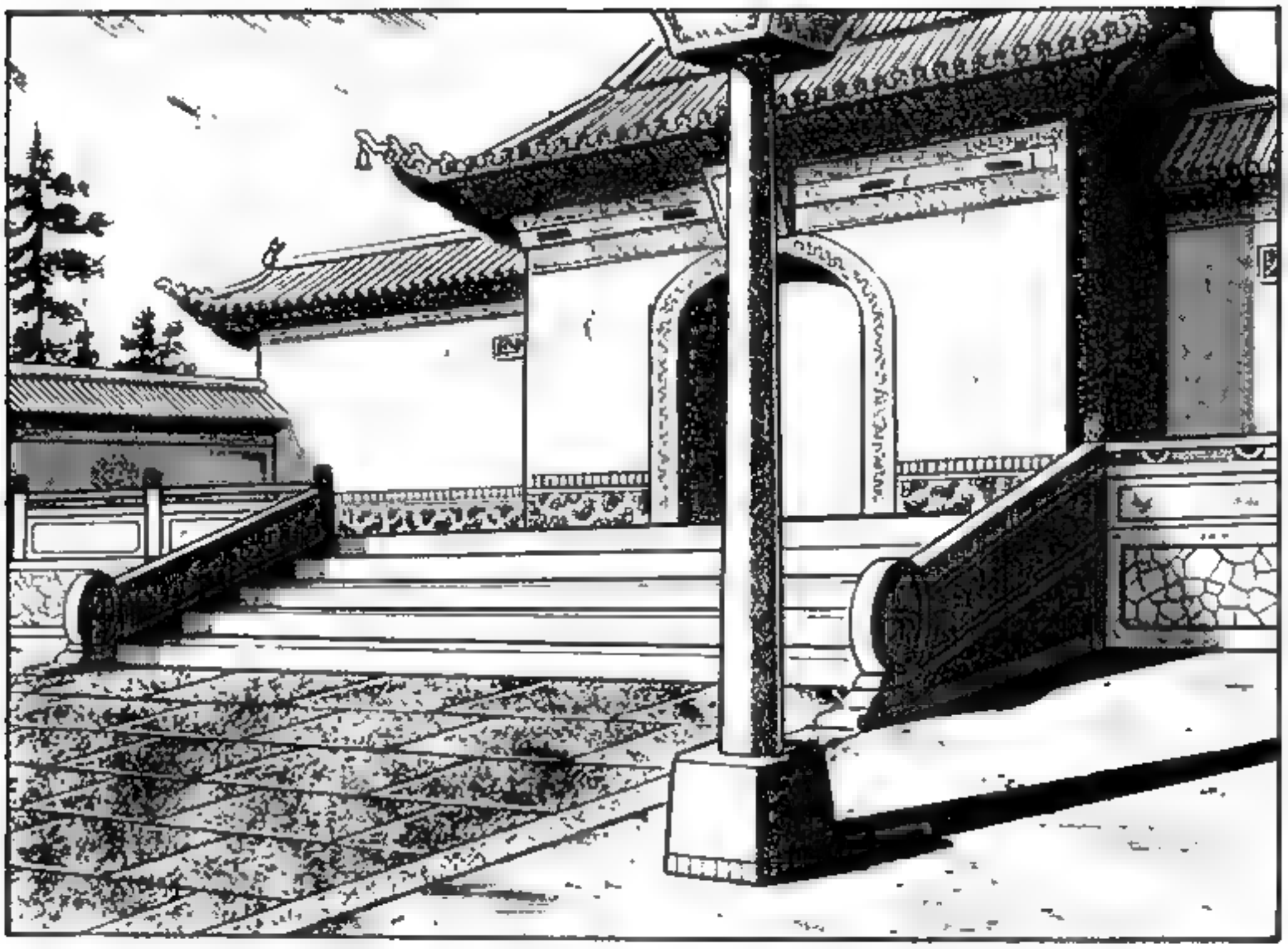
MOTHER, WHEN I WAS 16, I WENT TO THE BATTLEFIELD AND KILLED A MAN FOR THE FIRST TIME. SINCE THEN, I'VE KILLED COUNTLESS MORE.

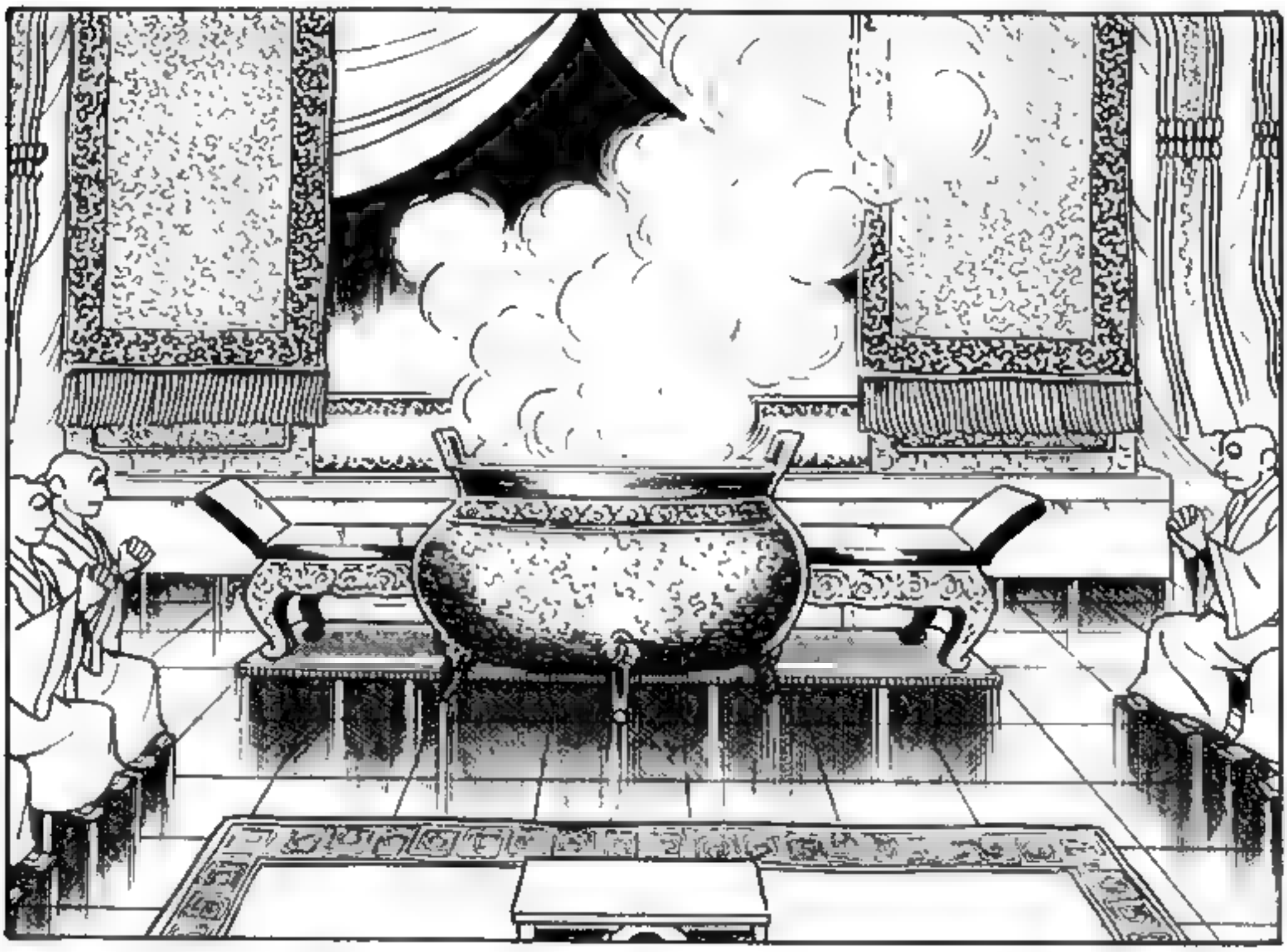
PLEASE, DEAR. IF NOT FOR HIM, THEN DO IT FOR YOUR MOTHER.

WELL I'M NOT.

OH, THANK YOU. THAT'S ALL I WANTED, MY SON.

...FINE. IF IT MEANS THAT MUCH TO YOU, THEN I WILL.





ONCE YOU'RE RELEASED FROM YU JIN'S GRUDGE, I'M SURE YOU'LL BE BESET BY NIGHTMARES NO MORE.

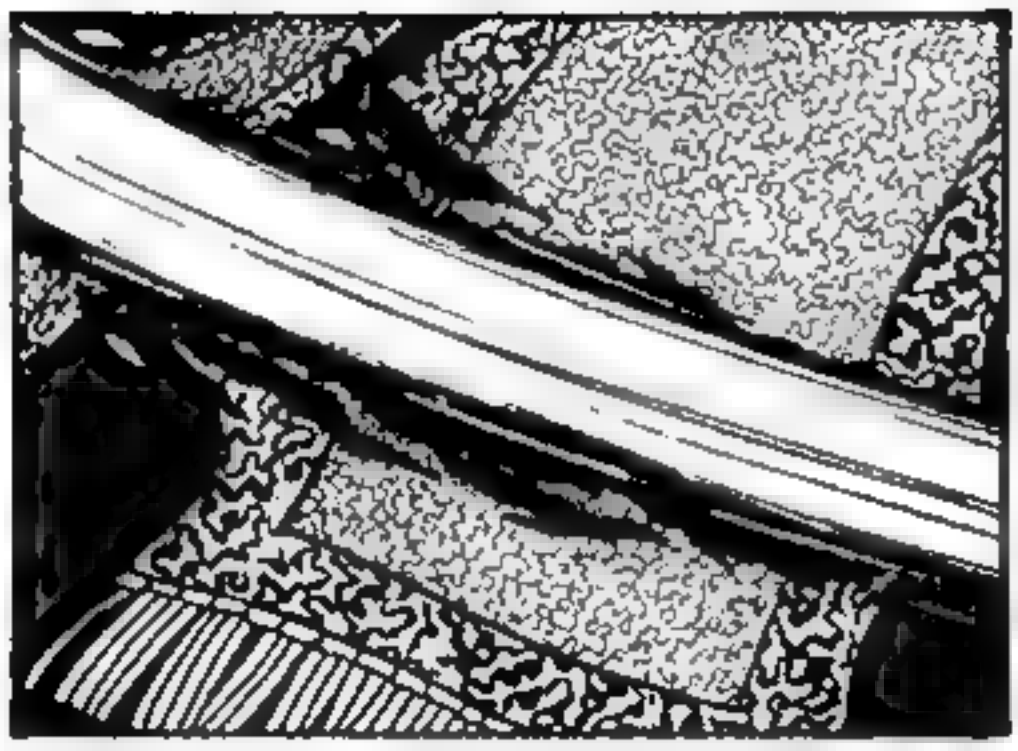
THEN WE SHALL BEGIN THE APPEASEMENT RITES, MY LORD.

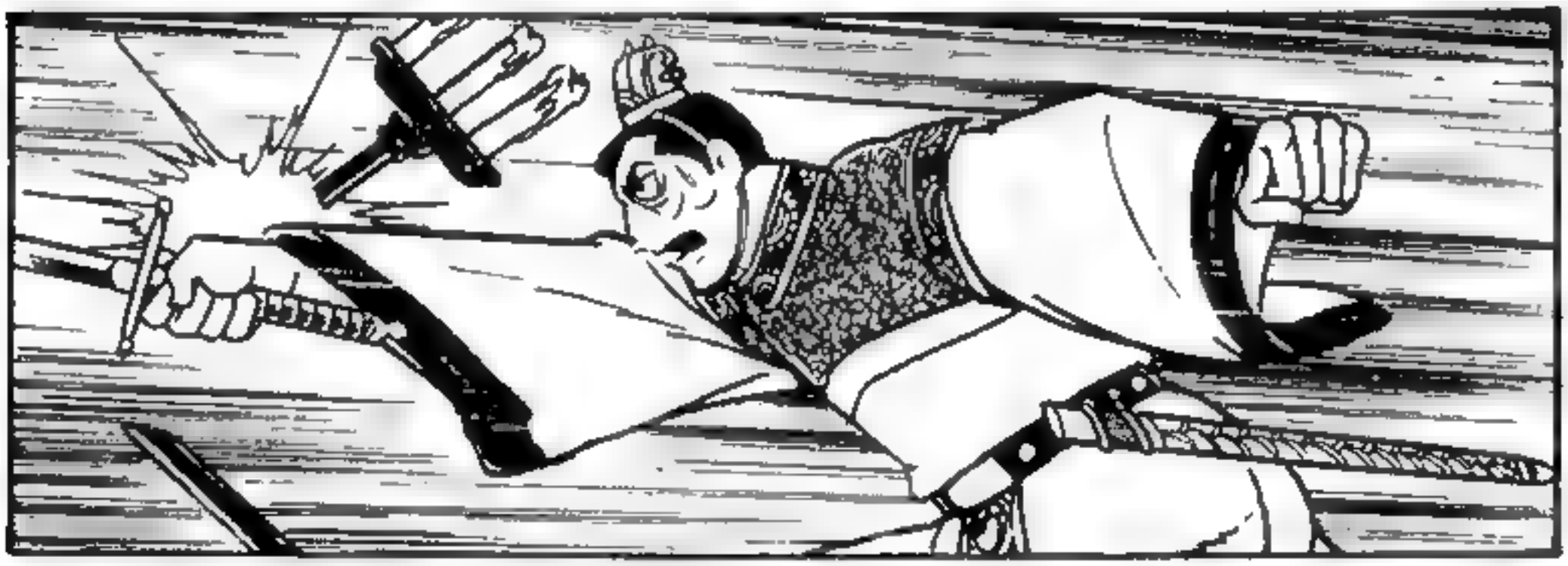
HM?

AHH! YOU STILL DARE TO SHOW YOUR FACE IN FRONT OF ME!?

MY LORD!

P-PLEASE CALM DOWN, MY LORD!





HUFF...
HUFF...

AHH!

MY LORD!

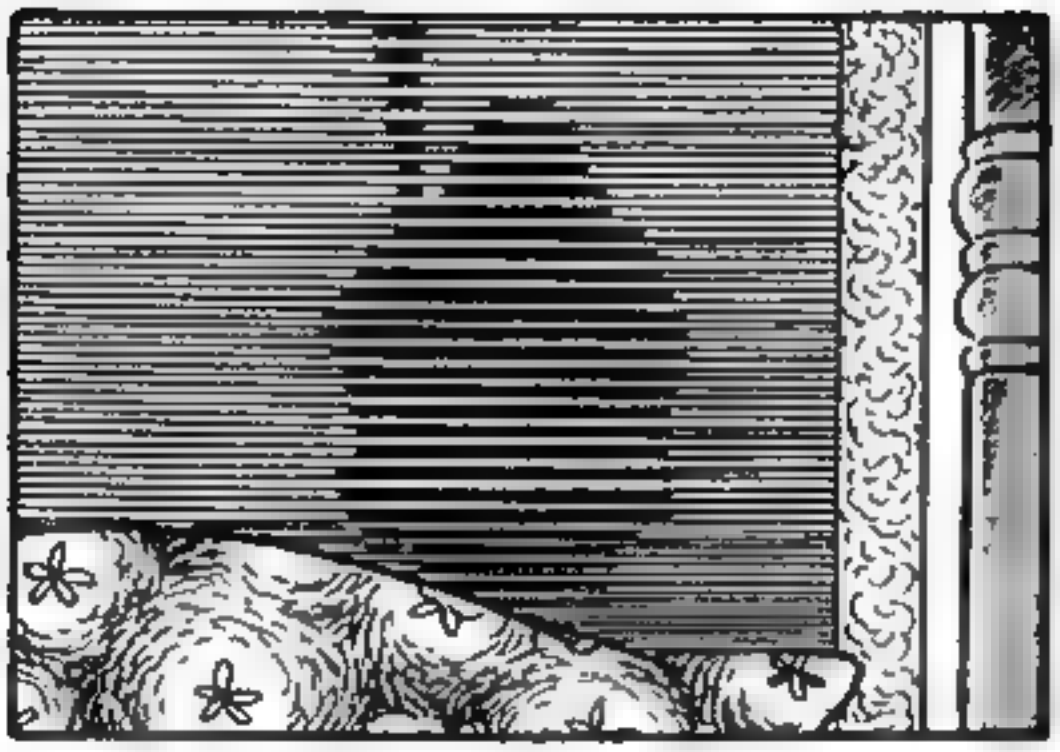
WE MUST TAKE HIM BACK TO THE CASTLE IMMEDIATELY.

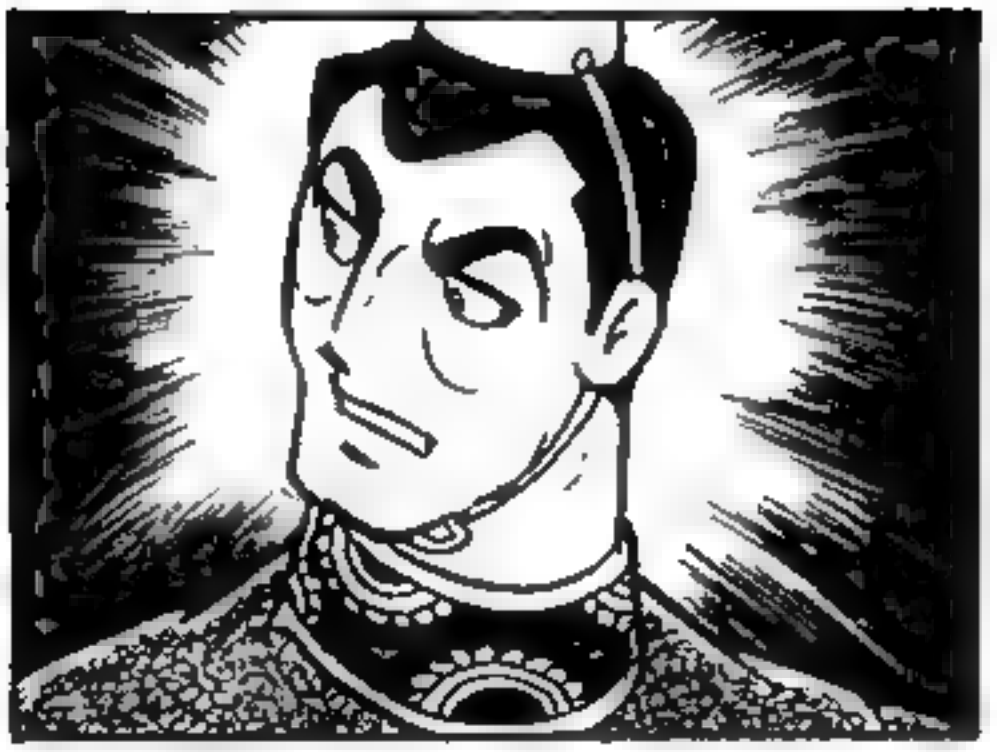
HM?

I SEE...

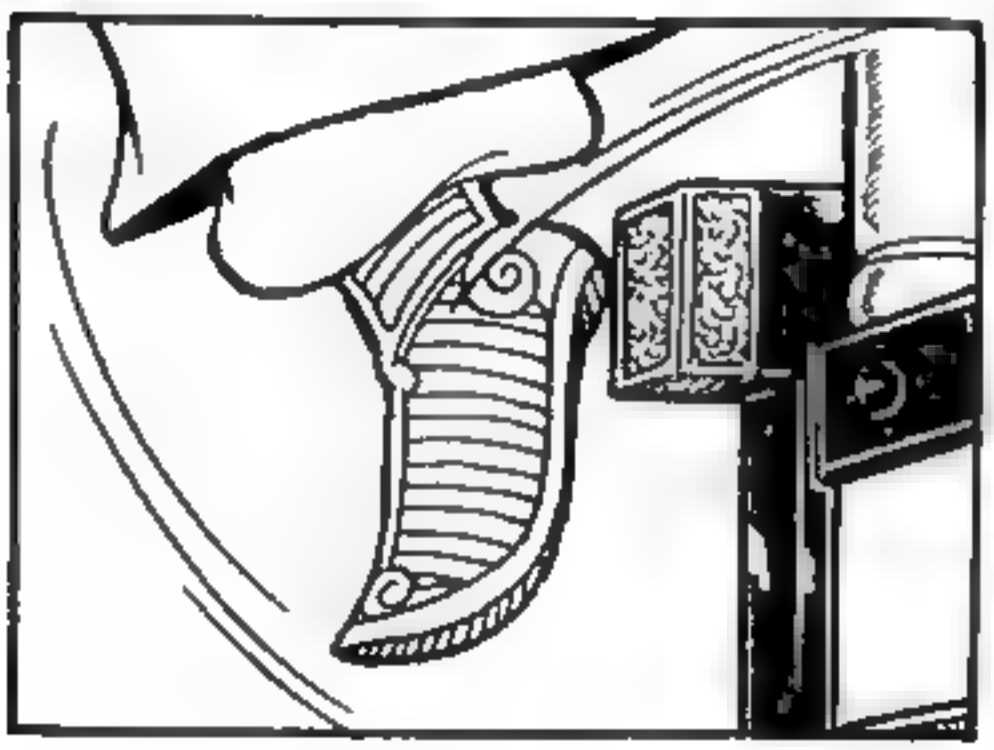
YOU PASSED OUT AT THE TEMPLE, MY LORD.

WHY AM I HERE?





MUST YOU HAUNT ME EVEN IN DAYTIME NOW, YOU DAMN GEEZER!?



MY LORD!
MY LORD!
HE'S BLEEDING! CALL THE DOCTOR!

HOW IS OUR LORD'S STATUS?

WELL, DOCTOR?

HIS OLD WOUNDS HAVE REOPENED AND HE LOST A SEVERE AMOUNT OF BLOOD.

I'M AFRAID THERE'S NOTHING MUCH EVEN I CAN DO AT THIS POINT...

YOU CALLED, SIR?

BRING ME A MIRROR.

SOME-ONE...

THIS IS MY FACE...?

YOU MUSTN'T SAY SUCH OMINOUS THINGS, MY LORD!

I SEE I DO NOT HAVE LONG...

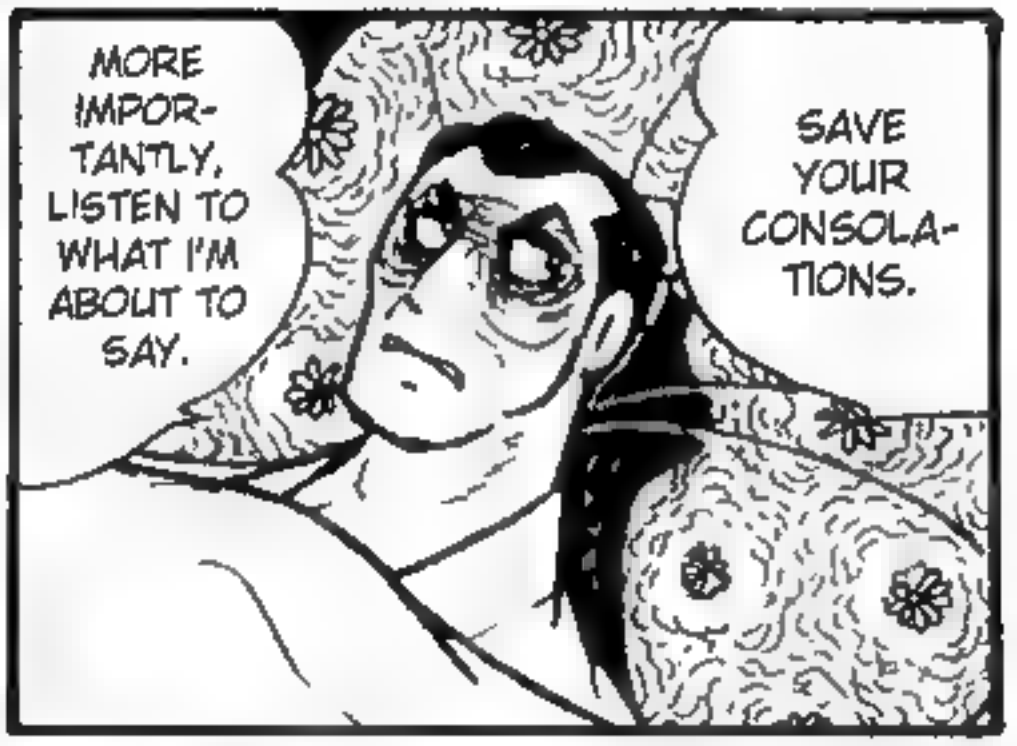
YES, MY LORD.
GATHER ALL MY CHIEF OFFICERS.

THANK YOU FOR ALL COMING, GENTLEMEN.

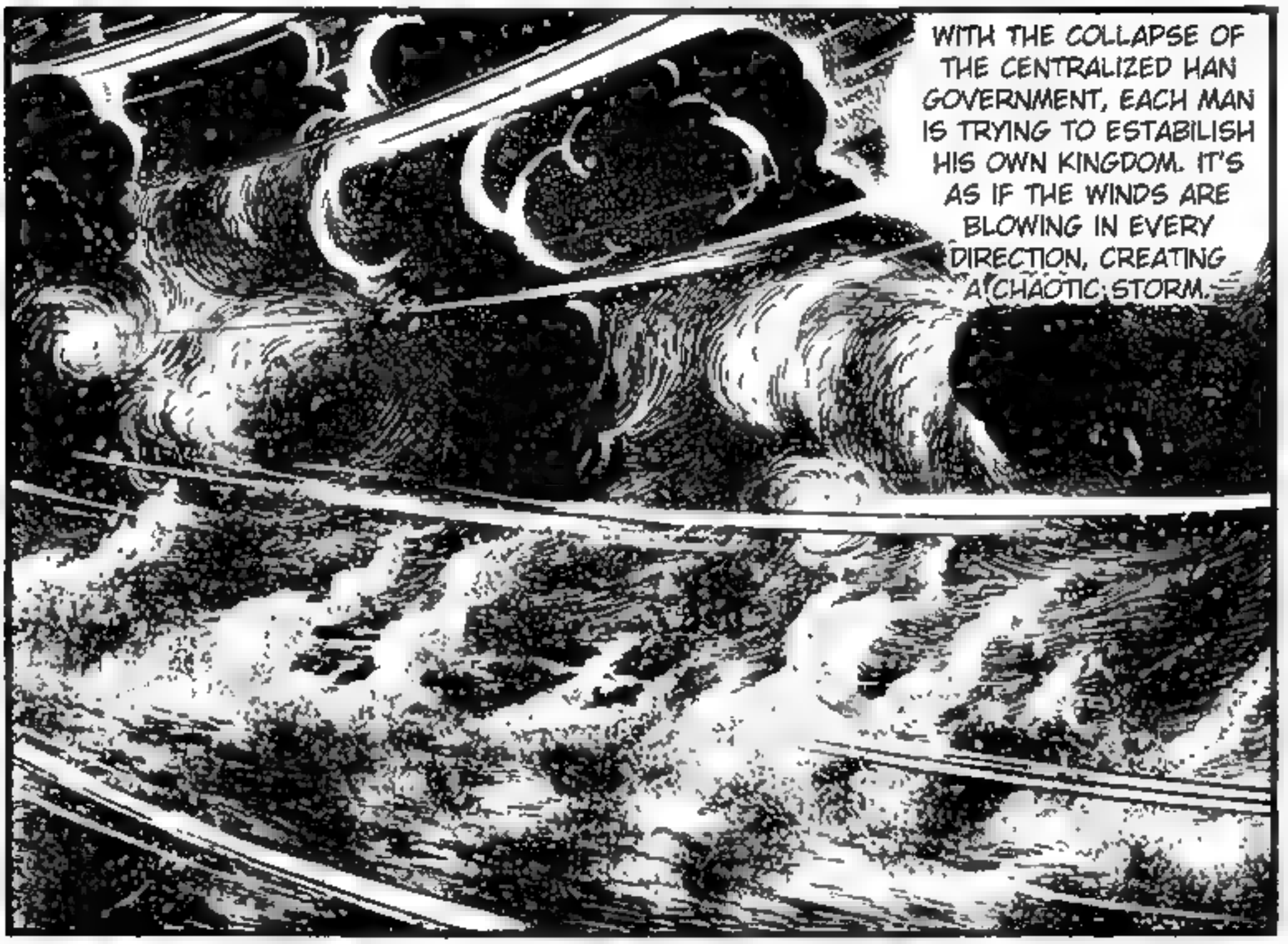
YOU MUSTN'T LOSE HOPE, SIR!

W-WHATEVER DO YOU MEAN, MY LORD!?

I'M AFRAID I DO NOT HAVE MUCH LONGER TO LIVE.


MORE IMPOR-TANTLY, LISTEN TO WHAT I'M ABOUT TO SAY.
SAVE YOUR CONSOLA-TIONS.

OUR WORLD IS UNDERGOING A RADICAL CHANGE RIGHT NOW.


WITH THE COLLAPSE OF THE CENTRALIZED HAN GOVERNMENT, EACH MAN IS TRYING TO ESTABILISH HIS OWN KINGDOM. IT'S AS IF THE WINDS ARE BLOWING IN EVERY DIRECTION, CREATING A CHAOTIC STORM.

BUT THAT IS NOT ENOUGH TO BRACE THIS COMING STORM. WHAT'S KEY IS HUMAN RESOURCES.

THE LANDS OF WU MAY HAVE NATURAL DEFENSES AND RICH FERTILE FARMLANDS,

ZHANG ZHAO AND THE REST OF YOU GENTLEMEN HERE. PLEASE GUIDE MY BROTHER SUN QUAN.

YES, BROTHER?

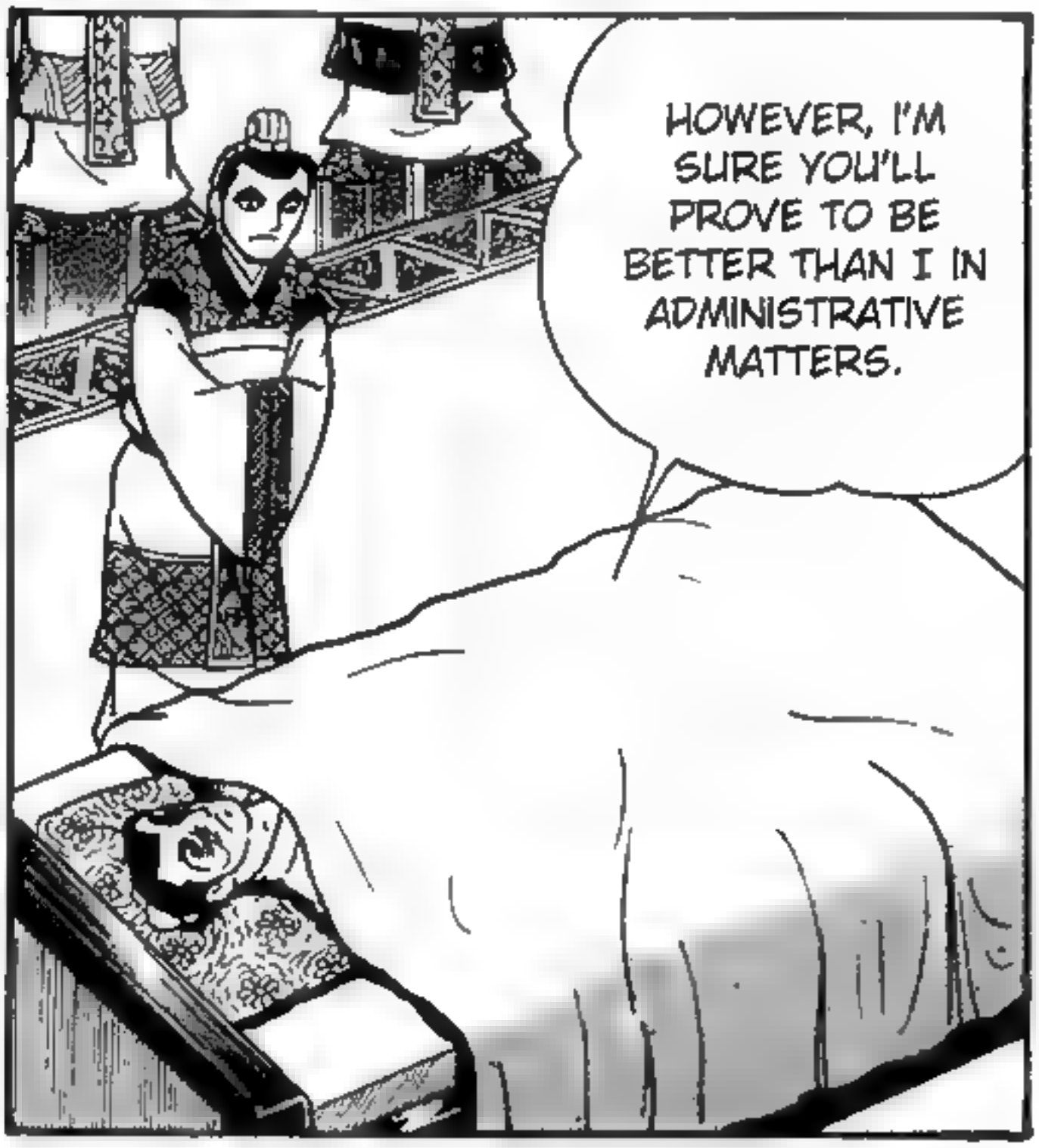
SUN QUAN.

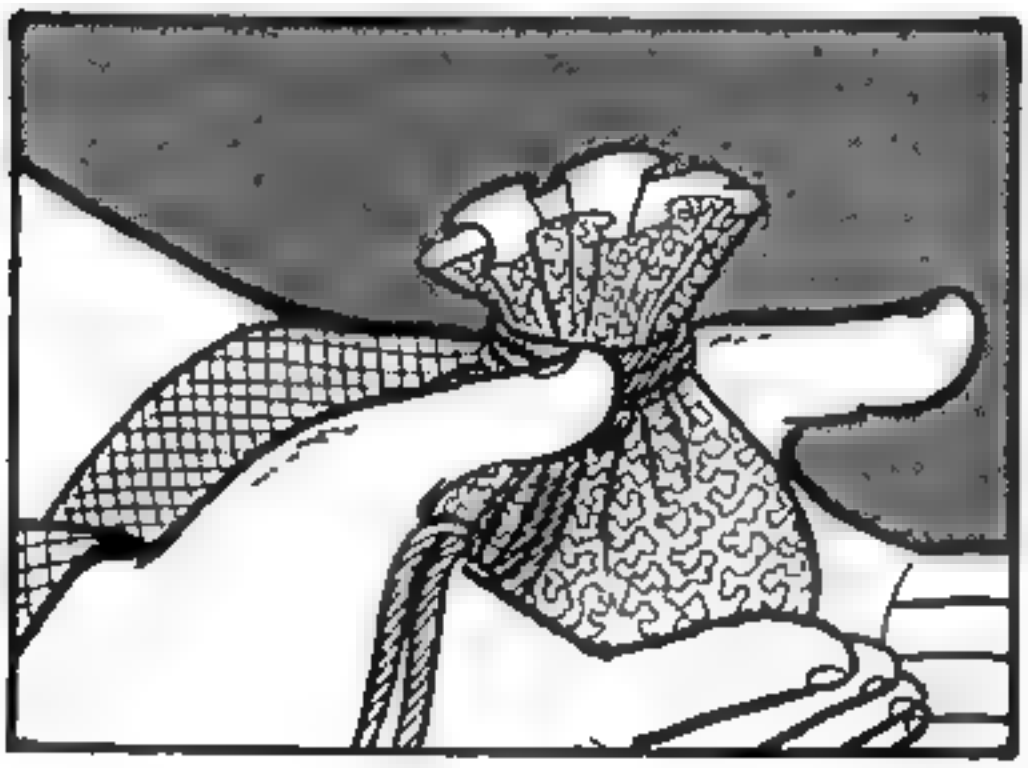
BRO-THER...

FROM NOW ON, YOU SHALL BE THE PROTECTOR OF WU.

YOU ARE NOT AS TALENTED AS I IN EXPANDING OUR TERRITORIES THROUGH WAR.

NEVER FORGET THE EFFORT OUR FATHER AND I PUT IN ESTABLISHING OUR STATE TO BECOME WHAT IT IS TODAY. CHERISH THE PEOPLE AND BE SURE TO CULTIVATE THE TALENTED.


HOWEVER, I'M SURE YOU'LL PROVE TO BE BETTER THAN I IN ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.



TAKE THIS, IT'S THE SEAL.

DO NOT BE SWEPT UP BY THE STORM...

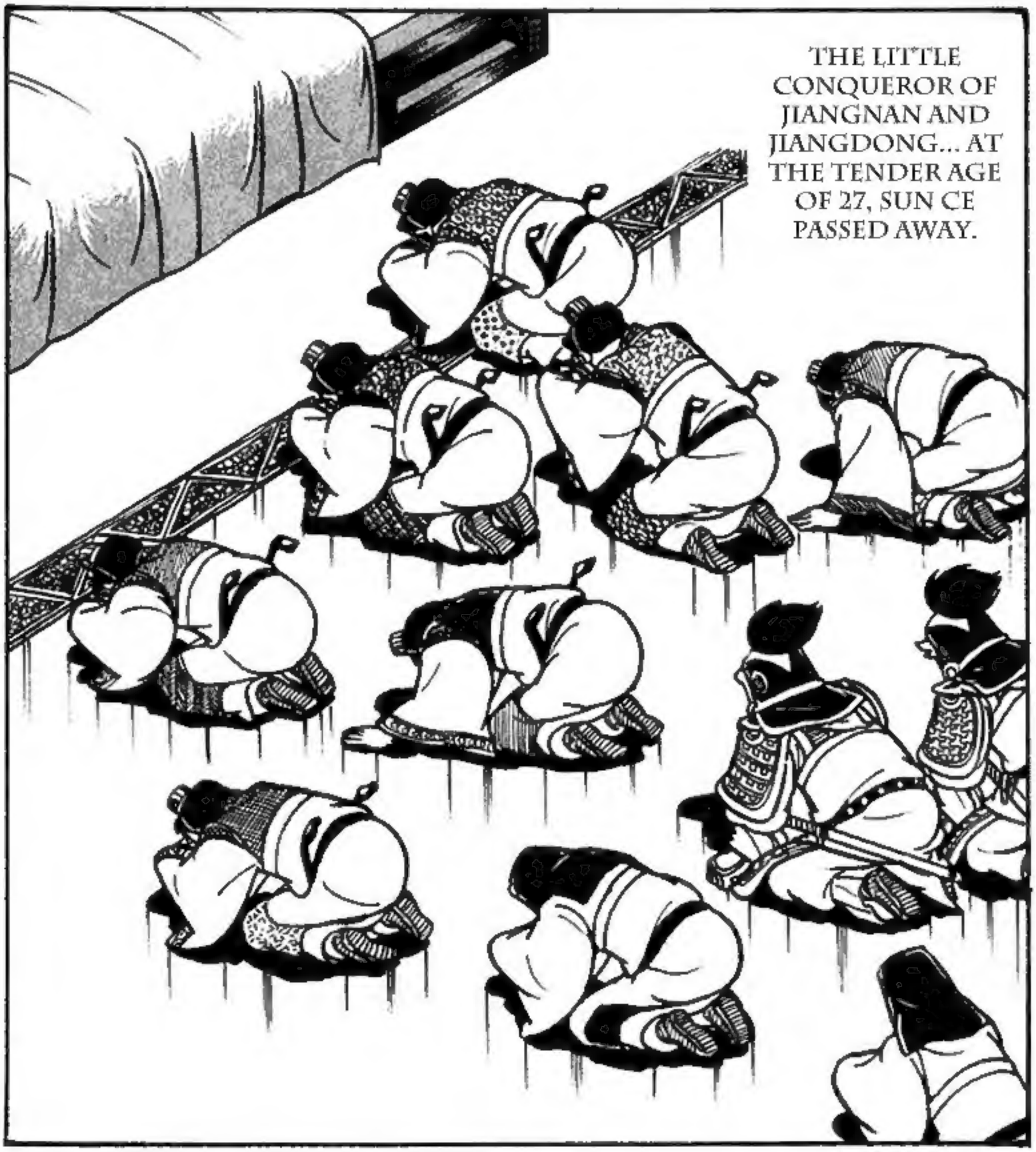
MY LORD!

BRO-THER!

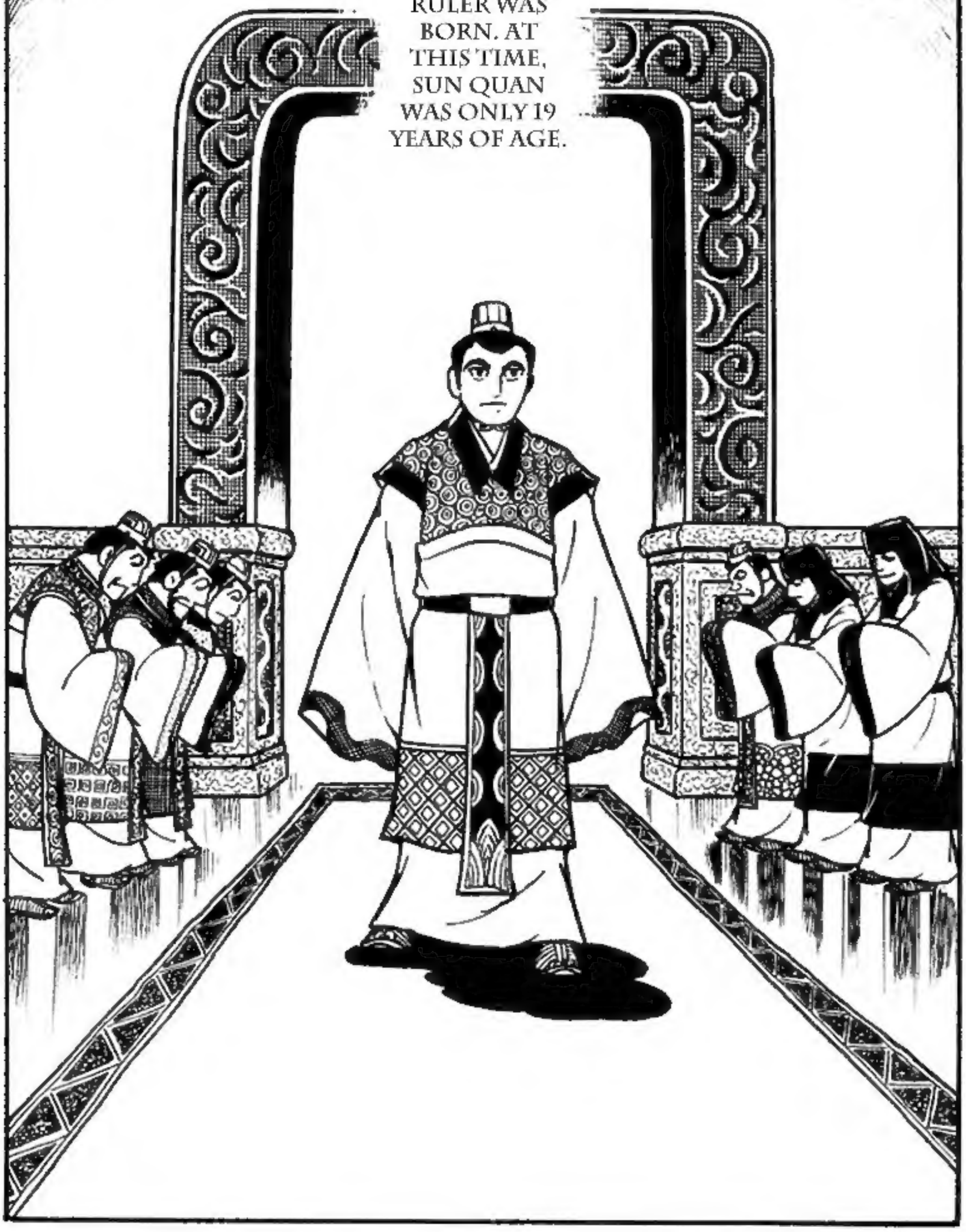
MY LORD!

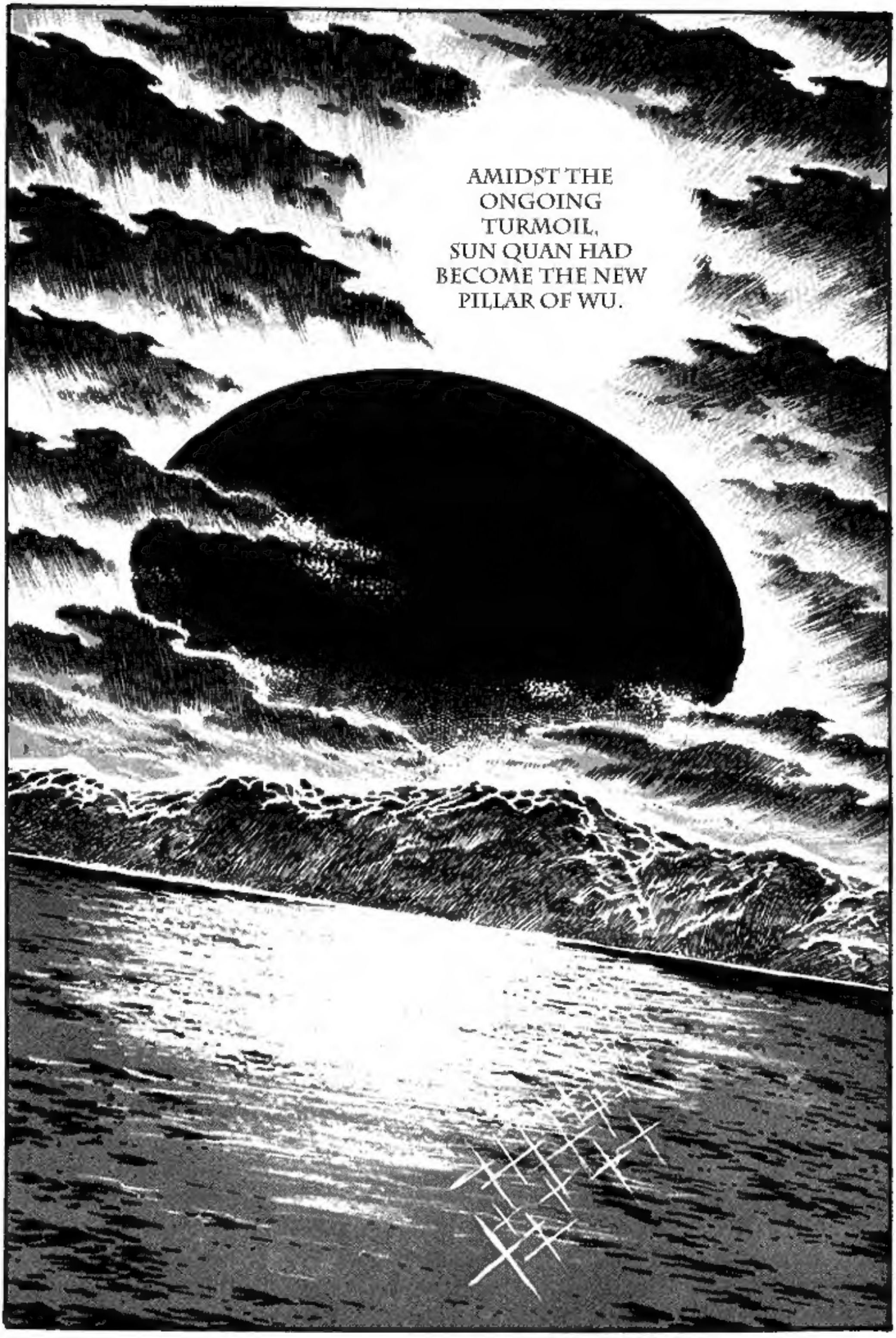
MY LORD!

BUT THERE WAS NO RESPONSE FROM SUN CE.


THE LITTLE CONQUEROR OF JIANGNAN AND JIANGDONG... AT THE TENDER AGE OF 27, SUN CE PASSED AWAY.

AND A NEW RULER WAS BORN. AT THIS TIME, SUN QUAN WAS ONLY 19 YEARS OF AGE.





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横山 光輝

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